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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

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Fifty-fifth year

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Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 31 of General Assembly resolution 54/189 A of 17 December 1999, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report every three months during its fifty-fourth session on the progress of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan. The present report, which covers developments since the issuance of my second quarterly report, of 16 June 2000 (A/54/918-S/2000/581), is also submitted in response to requests by the Security Council for regular information on the main developments in Afghanistan.

II. Recent developments in Afghanistan

A. Activities of the Secretary-General, his Personal Representative and the Special Mission

2. During my brief visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran in mid-June in connection with Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, I discussed, among other subjects, the situation in Afghanistan with the President, Seyed Mohammad Khatami, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kamal Kharrazi. Both noted with appreciation the opening of the Mission's liaison office in Tehran and reiterated their country's commitment to solving the issue of Afghanistan through political means. They also expressed their intention, in cooperation with other members of the Committee on Afghanistan of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), to continue OIC efforts on Afghanistan, and welcomed the participation of my Personal Representative in the OIC-sponsored talks with the warring factions, held at Jeddah in March and May 2000.

3. During the period under review, my Personal Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the Mission, Francesc Vendrell, has continued his contacts with the two Afghan warring sides and other Afghans, as well as with the Governments of the region. On 5 September he was received in Kandahar by the head of the Taliban movement, Mullah Mohammad Omar. He also held a separate meeting on that occasion with the Taliban Foreign Minister, Wakil Ahmad Mutawakkil, with whom he had held previous rounds of talks in Kandahar on 24 June and in Kabul on 27 July. My Personal Representative also travelled to Dushanbe on 24 June for discussions with the Commander of the

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United Front, Ahmad Shah Massoud, and to Faizabad on 29 July to meet the President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Burhanuddin Rabbani. On 1 August he met in Tashkent, in the course of a visit to Uzbekistan, with Acting Foreign Minister Abdullah. He has also maintained contact with other United Front leaders, including Mohammad Ismail Khan, former Governor of Herat, and General Abdul Rashid Dostum, leader of the Jumbeish-e-Melli-ye Islami-ye Afghanistan.

4. My Personal Representative's discussions have dealt with ways of developing a dialogue between the two belligerents, the renewal of fighting despite the Security Council's repeated demand for a cessation of hostilities, the allegations by the Russian Federation and several Central Asian States regarding the Taliban's support for armed elements within their respective territories, the continued presence of Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, and issues related to human rights and the employment of Afghan female staff by United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations.

5. Most of these issues also figured in a new round of talks undertaken from late July to mid-August by my Personal Representative with leaders of the countries surrounding Afghanistan, including the President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Niyazov, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyed Mohammad Khatami, and the Chief Executive of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf, as well as the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, Talbak Nazarov; Turkmenistan, Batyr Atayevich Berdyev; Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Kamilov; and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kamal Kharrazi, and other senior officials of those countries. All Governments concerned acknowledged the United Nations central role in restoring peace to Afghanistan and expressed their full support for the efforts pursued by me and by my Personal Representative in this regard.

6. During this period my Personal Representative also met in Islamabad with two separate delegations dispatched to Pakistan and to Afghanistan by former King Muhammad Zahir Shah, in the context of his proposal to convene a *loya jirga* or traditional grand assembly. The first of those delegations, led by the former Afghan Foreign Minister, Hidayat Amin Arsala, visited Islamabad in the third week of July and was received by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Abdul Sattar. The second delegation, headed by the Private Secretary to the former King, Zalmai Rassoul, was in Kandahar from 8 to 10 August and held meetings with the Governor of Kandahar, Mullah Hassan Rahmani, and the Taliban Foreign Minister. The former King had previously sent delegations to France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and intends to dispatch representatives in the coming weeks to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Central Asian republics, the Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia, as well as to the United Front.

Activities of the Civil Affairs Unit

7. The presence of the Mission's Civil Affairs Unit in Afghanistan has been further consolidated during this period. The Unit is now permanently deployed in Fayzabad, Herat, Jalalabad and Kandahar as well as Kabul. Civil Affairs Officers have also paid visits to the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif and to the central region of Hazarajat pending the opening of Civil Affairs Unit offices.

8. The Civil Affairs Officers have continued to engage in a dialogue on political and human rights issues with high-ranking representatives of the local and regional authorities of both Afghan sides, as well as with the judiciary, the media and elements of civil society such as women's and youth groups, religious leaders and councils of elders (*shuras*).

B. Other political developments

Afghanistan

9. On 5 August, seven Afghan employees of the United Nations-supported mine awareness programme were killed by an unidentified armed band in western Afghanistan near the Sabzak pass while travelling on the road linking the western provinces of Badghis and Herat. The Taliban and the United Front traded accusations as to who was responsible for the crime. I expressed my shock at the depth of the violence of this unwarranted attack on humanitarian personnel and appealed to the Taliban authorities to track down the gunmen and bring them to justice. At the beginning of September, the Taliban announced the apprehension of one of the presumed perpetrators.

10. A series of bomb explosions have rocked Kabul and Jalalabad since July, three of them against Pakistani diplomatic premises. Fortunately, those three explosions caused only material damage. Other explosions in Kabul on 22 July and 3 September,

however, each claimed one life and caused several injuries. These events, which led to the dismissal of the Taliban's security chief of Kabul, were blamed by the Taliban on the United Front, which for its part denied responsibility. The Taliban later reported the arrest of two suspects allegedly linked to the United Front.

11. On 16 July, a former commander of the Mujaheddin, Abdul Qahar Shariati, known in diplomatic circles in Pakistan for his attempts to build up a Pashtun alternative to the Taliban, was arrested in Peshawar. Reports have since emerged of the detention and harassment of his supporters inside Afghanistan, and of supporters of the former King.

12. Meanwhile, one of the former prominent Mujaheddin leaders, Maulawi Muhammad Yunus Khalis, lately known as sympathetic to the Taliban, acknowledged the pivotal role of Zahir Shah and voiced his support for a *loya jirga*, describing it as the only solution to Afghanistan's problems.

13. On 25 July, the Taliban arrested Mohammad Bashir Baghlani, the Governor of Baghlan Province and one of the Taliban's key allies, at Pul-e Khumri, on charges that he had established secret contacts with the opposition. The arrest triggered clashes between the Taliban and the United Front. Baghlani was later transferred to Kandahar prison and his forces were neutralized. Shortly afterwards, Abdullah Jan Wahidi, the former Governor of Laghman Province, who had announced his alliance with the Taliban in a publicized ceremony in late April, defected back to the United Front. Late in August, the Governor of the central province of Bamyan, Maulawi Islam, parted ways with the Taliban after developing differences with them.

14. While the province of Badakhshan, located in the north-east of the country and controlled mainly by the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has mainly escaped becoming a battlefield between the Taliban and the United Front, there have been reports since mid-July of armed confrontations among several local United Front commanders in areas adjacent to Faizabad, the capital of the province.

15. On 22 August, the Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, announced a periodic reshuffle of his Government, replacing the Ministers of Planning and High Education as well as the Mayor of Kabul, and appointing a new ambassador to Pakistan.

16. In a recent interview, the Taliban supreme leader reiterated that there would be no change in the movement's position regarding Osama bin Laden unless proof was provided linking him to specific terrorist acts. In the Taliban's view, the material on Osama bin Laden handed over to them by the United States of America some time ago did not constitute such evidence. The movement, reiterating its opposition to terrorism, reacted strongly to a Russian Federation-United States high-level working group meeting on Afghanistan held early in August and warned that such cooperation would negatively affect the situation in the region. On 16 August, the Taliban Foreign Ministry reiterated that the territory of Afghanistan would not be used to carry out attacks against other nations.

17. The process towards the comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war agreed in May by the two warring sides at the OIC meeting at Jeddah was interrupted by the fighting that broke out early in July. However, both sides have continued to informally exchange smaller groups of prisoners of war. Even if efforts towards a comprehensive exchange are resumed after the current fighting dies down, obstacles are likely to persist in connection with differing interpretations by the two sides of the commitments they entered into during the second round of indirect talks held at Jeddah.

18. Afghanistan's central region of Hazarajat, populated mainly by the ethnic and religious minority of the Shia Hazaras, is more negatively affected than most other areas of the country both by the ongoing war and by poor social and economic conditions, including the drought. It is controlled for the most part by indigenous factions formally allied with the Taliban; these factions, however, mistrust each other deeply. Non-Hazarajat Taliban forces are deployed there in order to maintain tight control over them and to exert heavy pressure on the local population, inter alia, by restricting their freedom to practise their religious beliefs. The problems are aggravated by sometimes violent land disputes between armed Pashtun nomads from outside the area, strong supporters of the Taliban, and local inhabitants. Aggravated by the drought, the conflicts throughout the summer became so explosive that the central Taliban authorities had to step in to negotiate, with only limited success.

Other developments

19. On 5 July, a summit meeting in Dushanbe of the "Shanghai Five" group (now renamed the "Shanghai Forum" with the addition of Uzbekistan), comprising China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan, called for an end to the Afghan conflict, expressed concern over tensions in Afghanistan and discussed means of countering terrorism originating from that country. The Taliban immediately denied that it was supporting terrorist or separatist movements within the territories of the Forum's member States. In the aftermath of infiltration of armed groups into Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan early in August, the Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan convened a summit meeting at Bishkek on 20 August to address the security issues which they believed had originated in Afghanistan.

20. In the course of his visit to Pakistan late in July, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, Tang Jiaxuan, called for the formation of a new coalition government in Afghanistan, acceptable to all parties and endorsed by the international community. It was also reported that the Chinese delegation voiced China's concern regarding the infiltration of Islamic separatist activists into its western territory from Afghanistan. Responding to these concerns the Taliban's Ambassador to Pakistan assured China that Afghan territory would not be used against Beijing.

21. The Interior Minister of Pakistan, Moinuddin Haider, announced that his Government had handed over a list of 18 camps where Pakistani militants were allegedly receiving military training, demanding that the Taliban shut them down. Furthermore, Pakistan had demanded that the Taliban extradite those suspected of terrorist activities in Pakistan. There are indications that the Taliban have requested proof to back those charges, as well as a reciprocal agreement whereby Pakistan would in turn hand over opposition figures to the Taliban.

22. Since early August, militant Uzbek dissidents have infiltrated Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, apparently through Tajikistan, clashing with the security forces of those countries. The Governments of these Central Asian republics, and the Russian Federation, have charged that the insurgents emanate from Taliban-controlled areas in Afghanistan, where they have allegedly received shelter, training and logistical support for their operations. On 16 August the Taliban Foreign Ministry issued a statement dismissing those charges.

23. On 29 August in Kandahar, Mullah Omar received the Special Adviser to the President of Turkmenistan on Afghan affairs, Boris Sheikhmuradov, who had earlier visited the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr. Sheikhmuradov's tour was reported to have focused on a number of national and regional issues, including talks with the United Front and the possibility of a long-term ceasefire. After visiting Kabul, Mr. Sheikhmuradov went to Islamabad, where he held discussions with the Chief Executive and the Minister for Foreign Affairs; he subsequently met Commander Massoud in Dushanbe.

C. Military situation

24. The belligerents' long preparations for a major offensive culminated, in July and August, in two rounds of intense fighting. In the first round in the Shomali area north of Kabul, the Taliban suffered heavy losses but gained no ground. These events were generally regarded as a severe setback for the Taliban and a victory, even if temporary, for the United Front. However, the offensive launched by the Taliban on 28 July in the provinces of Baghlan and Takhar resulted in their achieving two central military aims, the capture of the subdistrict of Bangi on 6 August, thereby cutting a major United Front supply line to the Panjshir Valley, and the fall on 6 September of Taloqan, a United Front stronghold and the last large town under its control. The flow of weapons and other war matériel into Afghanistan continues.

Offensive north of Kabul

25. On 1 July the Taliban launched an extensive attack, involving 5,000 to 7,000 fighters, in five directions north of Kabul, concentrating on Bagram Airport with minor activity in other Shomali areas and in the district of Nejrab, further east. The United Front forces were not taken by surprise, having earlier engaged the Taliban with artillery fire and rockets. Initial gains by the Taliban on the ground were reversed, and by 2 July the fighting had by and large subsided. On 9 July the Taliban attacked United Front positions south of Charikar town to the north of Kabul. They again initially took some ground, which later in the day was recaptured by the United Front.

26. Both sides sustained heavy losses in the hostilities of 1 and 9 July, with an estimated 200 to 400 killed and 500 to 650 wounded, around 75 per cent of these losses accruing to the Taliban. United Front losses stemmed mainly from civilian casualties as a result of Taliban air strikes. The outcome of the fighting was in general regarded as a severe setback to the Taliban.

Baghlan/Takhar campaign

27. From mid-July the Taliban started preparations for a new offensive, this time in the northern province of Baghlan, bringing in 8,000 to 10,000 fighters, including non-Afghan elements, mainly from religious schools in Pakistan and other sources. The United Front defence was least strong in Baghlan, as the United Front leadership had pinned their hopes on the possible about-face of the top local commander in the province, Bashir Baghlani. The United Front's hopes were dashed when Baghlani was arrested by the Taliban on 25 July.

28. On 28 July the Taliban launched the offensive against the United Front's front lines west of Nahrin town, quickly advancing about 25 kilometres. Between 29 July and 6 August they captured the towns of Nahrin and Burka in Baghlan Province, as well as Eskamesh and Bangi in neighbouring Takhar Province, the latter being of decisive importance for the United Front's defence of Taloqan.

29. After the Taliban succeeded in advancing from Bangi to as close as 5 to 8 kilometres from Taloqan on 7 August, for almost a month the battle over Taloqan flowed back and forth in numerous attacks and counter-attacks west, north-west and south of the town. The Taliban forces were supported by air assaults, but the United Front's extensive minefields proved to be the main obstacle, preventing the Taliban from progressing further on the ground. On 4 September the Taliban, reinforced by fresh units and supported by an increased number of tanks, artillery fire and air assaults, launched a vigorous attack on Taloqan from four directions, resulting in the capture of the town in the early hours of 6 September. The fall of Taloqan is a severe blow to the United Front. Both sides sustained heavy losses in the Baghlan/Takhar campaign. The civilian population, for the most part living in United Front-controlled areas, also suffered casualties as a result of Taliban air attacks and artillery shelling.

D. Activities in New York

30. Taking advantage of the presence of Ministers for Foreign Affairs in New York for the General Assembly session, I decided to convene a meeting of the "six plus two" informal group on 15 September at the level of Foreign Ministers. The meeting, the second of its kind following the one in September 1998, was attended by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, Tang Jiaxuan; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kamal Kharrazi; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Abdul Sattar; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Igor S. Ivanov; the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Madeleine Albright; and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, Abdusamat A. Khaydarov, as well as the Permanent Representatives of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to the United Nations. Following my opening statement, my Personal Representative briefed the group on the latest developments on the ground and on his peacemaking efforts.

31. In their concluding statement (see annex to the present report), the participants expressed grave concern about the intensification of fighting in Afghanistan and its negative humanitarian consequences. They emphasized that there could be no military solution to the Afghan conflict and again called upon the warring parties to agree to a ceasefire and enter into negotiations aimed at bringing about a political solution to the conflict. In this regard, they requested the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to enter into contact with all relevant Afghan parties and report back to the group on the outcome of his contacts by 1 November 2000.

III. Humanitarian activities and human rights

A. Humanitarian situation

32. Humanitarian assistance continues to be provided in a volatile context. The recent murder of seven Afghan workers of the United Nations-supported mine awareness programme by an unidentified armed band in western Afghanistan (see para. 9) is a tragic confirmation of the risks taken by humanitarian personnel every day.

33. The crop assessment team of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) predicted earlier this year a shortfall in production of 2.3 million tons of cereal (66 per cent or two thirds of consumption requirements). This deficit follows on the heels of the 1999/2000 drought, which last year's assessment team rated as the worst in 40 years. Losses this year, however, are twice as great as last year.

34. FAO estimates that 300,000 tons of wheat seed is planted annually in Afghanistan. This year there is an estimated minimum deficit of 60,000 tons of seed as a result of either widespread production failure, forced consumption for food or poorly formed grains that will not germinate. Planting takes place either in the winter (October/November) or the spring (March/April). Currently there is no possibility of mobilizing more than 6,000 tons of additional seed, according to FAO. Without seed it is estimated that 400,000 farmers will miss the winter planting season.

35. In many areas the selling off of livestock to compensate for losses in production began last year. This occurred most prominently in the northern and southern regions where many households began the 2000/2001 harvest cycle with herd sizes down by as much as 50-75 per cent. It is anticipated that most households in northern, southern and western parts of the country will completely deplete their herds some time within the next six months. This will leave families without breeding stock and plough animals, representing the loss of virtually all productive assets.

36. The first large-scale movement of families from drought-affected areas has begun. Up to 1,800 families have reached Herat, the main urban centre in the west, from remote districts in Ghor, Badghis and Faryab Provinces. These families, many of them destitute, are now being accommodated in disused camps for internally displaced persons on the edge of the city. According to the World Health Organization, nutritional assessments are already cause for concern, as are the worsening mortality rates and sanitation situation. The place of origin of the internally displaced persons is known to be one of the areas most severely affected by drought; however, security-related problems as well as exceptional logistical challenges hamper relief efforts to stabilize the area. WFP is assisting acutely malnourished internally displaced persons. There is a fear that the scale of the Ghor-Herat migration has the potential to increase dramatically.

37. A second region, Dari Suf in southern Samangan, is also already experiencing high levels of famine-related distress. Here the first deaths attributable to malnutrition (verified by a nutritional survey) have already occurred. Military forces are preventing families from migrating to areas where they could expect to receive support, while food supplies to them are being blocked. After many weeks of negotiation and delay the United Nations received permission from Taliban authorities to move food into the area.

38. While the response of the international community to the United Nations drought appeal has been encouraging in terms of food, inadequate resources have been pledged for other relief activities. The current fighting in northern Afghanistan, combined with the drought-related needs of hundreds of thousands of people, is putting the humanitarian community under considerable pressure. The significant lack of resources often means that humanitarian agencies cannot respond to brutal, life-threatening needs. Tens of thousands of new internally displaced persons have already been identified following recent fighting. The fall of Taloqan and other northern cities is one major concern, while internally displaced persons in the Panjshir Valley continue to lack support. The lack of resources is often compounded by difficulties in gaining access for humanitarian agencies.

Refugees

39. Despite the severe drought in most parts of Afghanistan as well as a continuation of armed hostilities, and contrary to the advice of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan continue to opt for voluntary repatriation to their places of origin in Afghanistan. While some refugees return because of improved security conditions, many are forced to return because of poor conditions and a lack of donor resources in their countries of asylum.

40. The Joint Programme of UNHCR and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to provide large numbers of undocumented Afghans in that country with the option of voluntarily returning with UNHCR assistance to their places of origin in Afghanistan or of applying for continued protection at one of seven screening centres. Since the beginning of the programme on 8 April, a total of 82,001 Afghans

have been assisted to return to Afghanistan in 61 convoys. The voluntary repatriation is expected to continue at the current volume of 4,500 returnees per week until the end of the Joint Programme early in October 2000. Additionally, 21,422 cases (approximately 107,000 persons) seeking continued protection in the Islamic Republic of Iran have been interviewed by joint screening teams. Of those interviewed, 5,724 cases have been accepted and granted temporary permission to remain in the Islamic Republic of Iran and 9,359 cases rejected, while 6,339 cases are pending a decision.

41. The deteriorating situation and the increasing number of internally displaced persons resulting from drought and war in Afghanistan is adding to the concern about the situation of Afghans in the Islamic Republic of Iran after the end of the Joint Programme. Recent legislation adopted by the Majlis in the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the stay of foreigners in the country has increased this concern. A follow-up formula to the Joint Programme, in accordance with international standards, is needed to ensure that Afghans are not faced with the hardships of forcible return and a situation in which they are unable to sustain their lives in either the Islamic Republic of Iran or Afghanistan.

42. UNHCR continues to provide in-country transportation for returnees from the Islamic Republic of Iran to places of return. While many of the needs for effective reintegration are being addressed, most remain unmet given the serious funding limitations and the non-availability of medium- to long-term assistance. This situation renders voluntary repatriation a durable solution only for those who own land that produces crops or those who have the means to engage in the limited market of productive labour.

Narcotic drugs

43. Preliminary results of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) annual opium poppy survey in Afghanistan indicate a roughly 10 per cent decrease in opium cultivation in 2000 as compared to 1999, when poppy cultivation reached a new record level of over 90,000 hectares. It is encouraging to note that there was a reduction of around 50 per cent in Kandahar Province, including three of the Programme's target districts, where alternative development assistance has been provided since 1997. Opium poppy cultivation has also declined in some of the districts in Helmand and Nangarhar Provinces, though this decrease was offset by increases in other districts and provinces.

44. The opium harvest is expected to be significantly lower than last year's totals because of the drought. However, exceptions are noted in the provinces of Helmand and Nangarhar, the two major opium poppy cultivating provinces, representing 76 per cent of the opium poppy area, where it appears that opium poppy was given priority over other crops in the allocation of scarce irrigation water, and where a high level of opium production could be sustained. The poor opium harvest will leave many farmers who took out a loan or who were leasing land from landlords in a desperate position. Poverty is one of the driving forces behind opium production. However, the UNDCP programme to provide alternative livelihoods is significantly under-funded, a failure which could be seen as significantly short-sighted for countries attempting to combat drug production.

45. On 27 July 2000, the Taliban supreme leader issued a decree imposing for the first time a total ban on opium poppy cultivation in the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The promulgation of this decree is an encouraging step, particularly in the context of the 1997 ban on the production of illicit drugs, excluding opium. However, the Taliban's efforts to translate the decree into a measurable reduction of opium poppy cultivation will need to be closely monitored as from this year's poppy planting season.

B. Human rights

46. Recent offensives, which once again have civilians on the run, are a reminder that the parties to the conflict abuse human rights in Afghanistan. Each day, front-line communities are subjected to indiscriminate bombing and the use of landmines. There are also regular reports of the deliberate destruction of homes and assets, including water systems, food, and animals essential for survival. Summary executions and arbitrary detention continue to be a feature of the Afghan conflict. Away from the front line, Afghans continue to be denied fundamental rights such as the right to food, shelter, health, and therefore to the right to life. Drought and conflict result in the worsening of already high infant and maternal mortality rates.

47. The recent firman (decree of law) banning the employment of Afghan women in United Nations and non-governmental organization programmes except in the health sector affects several thousand Afghan women who are currently working through the assistance community in the country. It represents a gross violation of the right of Afghan women to employment. Furthermore, the division of gender roles in Afghanistan creates a situation where only women programmers can reach women beneficiaries. It is therefore a prerequisite for all assistance programmes targeting women to employ, together with international female staff, large numbers of Afghan women to help facilitate and monitor these programmes. The ban on the employment of Afghan women, if implemented, will considerably reduce the capacity of the assistance community to reach female target groups in Afghanistan.

48. The most serious outcome of the ban to date was the forced closure of the WFP-supported bakeries operated by women. However, in response to pressure from Kabul's population, the bakeries were reopened after 24 hours. The firman, however, remains in place. Negotiations between the United Nations and the Taliban authorities over issues relating to female employment continue in Kabul and Kandahar.

49. Afghan women and girls also continue to be denied their fundamental rights in terms of access to an acceptable standard of medical care and basic education and are restricted in their ability to earn a living. Despite some limited improvements, the situation remains far from satisfactory.

50. The Taliban authorities have recently advised the United Nations that they have declined the request of the Special Rapporteur for Afghanistan, Kamal Hossain, to visit the country. Such lack of cooperation with international human rights mechanisms is at odds with the stated commitment of the Taliban to human rights.

IV. Observations

51. It is hard not to be repetitive when commenting on the continuing Afghan tragedy. Summer has come, and with it the regular seasonal offensive, once again flouting the express demands of the Security Council to the warring sides, particularly the Taliban, to desist from fighting. With the first winter snows unlikely to fall before mid-October, it is too early to predict whether any significant territorial gains will have been achieved by then. What is all too obvious is that any gains on the battlefield will not bring about an end to the Afghan conflict, which cries out for a comprehensive political solution in keeping with the aspirations of the Afghan people and the legitimate concerns of the international community.

52. The current drought, the worst for over 30 years, is having a devastating effect on the population of Afghanistan, particularly in the rural areas, where the index of vulnerability is already extremely high. The question is how much longer the Afghan people will be able to withstand the accumulated effects of drought and warfare, let alone cope with any possible further economic blows. I appeal to the donor community to respond generously to requests for support.

53. The recent Taliban decree imposing for the first time a total ban on opium poppy cultivation in their territory is an encouraging development that deserves a positive response. I also take positive note of the ability of the Mission's Civil Affairs Unit to function inside Afghanistan. The regional action plan on drugs that has been worked out by the "six plus two" is a useful step towards achieving political cohesion among its members, which has so far been conspicuously missing.

54. It is unfortunate, however, that positive developments are offset by other actions such as the edict against the employment of Afghan women and the unwillingness to receive the Special Rapporteur.

55. Prior to the onset of the fighting, there had been signs that the two sides might consider embarking upon some kind of dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations. It is to be hoped that this may still be the case when the current round of fighting ends. While other international organizations and third countries can and should play a useful role in the search for peace, it is desirable that any initiative be undertaken in close coordination with, and under the umbrella of, the United Nations, whose central role in the settlement of the conflict has repeatedly been recognized by the Security Council and the General Assembly as well as by countries in the region.

56. I cannot but express an element of disappointment that there has been no significant shift as yet in the well-known positions of those countries that have interests in and influence on Afghanistan. It

is of the utmost importance for the settlement of the Afghan conflict that they should find a common approach. I will endeavour, through various avenues, to seek ways of achieving such a consensus. The recent incursions by Islamic militants into the territory of Central Asian countries highlight once again the danger of further spread of the conflict, and the need for a comprehensive rather than a piecemeal approach to the Afghan crisis.

Annex

Concluding statement of the high-level meeting of the "six plus two" group, held at United Nations Headquarters on 15 September 2000

Foreign Ministers and other senior representatives of the "six plus two" group met on 15 September 2000 at United Nations Headquarters to discuss the current situation in Afghanistan.

The heads of the delegations to the meeting, which was chaired by the Secretary-General, were: Tang Jiaxuan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, China; Kamal Kharrazi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran; Abdul Sattar, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pakistan; Igor S. Ivanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation; Rashid Alimov, Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations; Aksoltan T. Ataeva, Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations; Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State, United States of America; and Abdusamat A. Khaydarov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Uzbekistan.

The members of the "six plus two" group wish to express their appreciation for the Secretary-General's initiative in convening this timely meeting.

Following an opening statement by the Secretary-General, his Personal Representative for Afghanistan, Francesc Vendrell, briefed the meeting on recent developments and on the peacemaking efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan.

Foreign Ministers and other senior representatives of the "six plus two" group expressed grave concern about the intensification of fighting in Afghanistan and its negative humanitarian consequences. They emphasized that there could be no military solution to the Afghan conflict and again called upon the warring parties to agree to a ceasefire and enter into negotiations aimed at bringing about a political solution to the conflict. In this regard, the "six plus two" requested the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to enter into contact with all relevant Afghan parties and report back to the group on the outcome of his contacts by 1 November 2000.

The signatories of the Tashkent Declaration on Fundamental Principles for a Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict in Afghanistan (A/54/174-S/1999/812, annex) reaffirmed the principles contained in that Declaration.

The members of the "six plus two" group reiterated their support for the central role of the United Nations in the peaceful solution of the Afghan conflict and for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative as well as other efforts in support of United Nations activities to achieve a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan.

The members of the "six plus two" group pledged to continue to work closely with and in support of the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Afghanistan.

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Identical letters dated 18 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the grave nature of the statements made on Thursday 14 September by the Iraqi Oil Minister, Amir Rashid, and his Vice-Minister, Abdallah Shahine, who claim that Kuwait is engaging in acts of sabotage by pumping oil from Iraqi fields situated near the border. The Iraqi Minister also threatened reprisals against Kuwait.

These statements and the real threats which they pose to the security and stability of Kuwait are part of the Iraqi regime's usual policy and illustrate the lack of desire for peace and the hostility shown by the Iraqi regime against Kuwait by trying to provoke crises and create an atmosphere of tension and instability in the region. In order to establish the truth, we wish to state the following:

1. Kuwait categorically rejects the latest allegations by Iraq, which is accusing it of pumping Iraqi oil from Kuwaiti fields situated in the north of the country, and reaffirms that these allegations are absolutely groundless.

It also rejects the threats made by Iraq and draws the attention of the Security Council to their potentially serious consequences.

2. The Kuwaiti oil wells in the northern region are actually situated a long way from the border and are under the sovereignty of Kuwait in accordance with the boundary demarcation established by the Security Council in resolution 833 (1993).

3. Iraq's allegations that Kuwait is developing the oil wells in the Ramila field are crude and false, since these fields are situated within Iraqi territory, far from the border. Moreover, there is no place called Ramila in Kuwait, and Kuwait is unaware of the location of the fields within Iraqi territory.

The most disturbing aspect of this situation is that the crisis artificially created by the Iraqi regime about border oil wells is exactly the same as the artificial crisis in 1990 which the Iraqi regime used to justify the invasion of and aggression against Kuwait. We therefore call upon the Security Council to fulfil its legal and political responsibilities by rejecting these Iraqi threats and provocations and taking the necessary steps to ensure that Iraq respects the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolution 687 (1991) and resolution 949 (1994) in which, inter alia, the Council:

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"*Determined* to prevent Iraq from resorting to threats and intimidation of its neighbours and the United Nations, [...],

Demands that Iraq not again utilize its military or any other forces in a hostile or provocative manner to threaten ... its neighbours".

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Mohammad A. **Abulhasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2000/877

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 September 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to draw your attention to the dramatic situation in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, which is worsening with every passing day. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has repeatedly warned the Security Council of systematic and deliberate violations of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 by the international security (KFOR) and civil (UNMIK) presences, which is compounded by their collusion with the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in harassing the residents of this Serbian province, in particular the non-Albanians.

The ever more frequent instances of the harassment were reported also by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* on 16 and 17 September, respectively (see enclosed articles). According to the reports, the [United States] "Army is preparing to release an investigative report saying that several members of the 82nd Airborne Division on peacekeeping duty in Kosovo beat, threatened and assaulted civilians".

Considering the gravity of the situation and the danger implied in these illegal acts of the international presences, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia requests that the report be made available to the Security Council, so that it can consider the implementation of the mandate of the international presences in Kosovo and Metohija without delay and take measures to bring those responsible to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-64797 (E) 180900

Annex I to the letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

THE NEW YORK TIMES **INTERNATIONAL** SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2000

Army to Report on Beatings by G.I.'s in Kosovo

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 (AP) — The Army is preparing to release an investigative report saying that several members of the 82nd Airborne Division on peacekeeping duty in Kosovo beat, threatened and assaulted civilians, officials said today.

The formerly classified report also raises questions about the adequacy of the training these military personnel received in preparation for peacekeeping duty, the officials said.

They discussed the issue on condition that they not be identified.

The central conclusions of the report were publicly disclosed during the trial in Germany of Staff Sgt. Frank Ronghi, who was sentenced in August to life in prison with no possibility of parole for the sodomy, rape and murder of an 11-year-old Kosovo Albanian girl.

ABC News reported today that it had obtained a copy of the report.

The most sensational conclusion in the document — that several members of Sergeant Ronghi's platoon in the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment beat, threatened and illegally detained civilians in Kosovo — was publicly disclosed by government attorneys in Sergeant Ronghi's trial.

These acts were accepted as fact by both the prosecution and the defense, but the report itself was not made public because it contained classified information.

The Army has removed the classified material and will release an edited copy of the report on Monday, the officials said.

Earlier this year, the offenders were given punishment that included reduction in rank and forfeiture of pay — but not imprisonment. They are based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The actions they were accused of in the report include an incident in which an American lieutenant and a noncommissioned officer, along with Sergeant Ronghi, took two Albanian brothers to an abandoned warehouse and beat them. The lieutenant held a gun to the back of one of the brothers' heads and asked him if he wanted to die.

The American soldiers were part of the 50,000-strong NATO-led peacekeeping contingent sent into Kosovo last year, after the alliance's 78-day bombing campaign to force President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia to halt Serbs' violence against the ethnic Albanian majority in the province.

Books of The Times: Weekdays

Annex II to the letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Washington Post -Sunday September 17,2000

NATIONAL NEWS

Army Report Says Soldiers Abused Civilians in Kosovo

Associated Press

The Army is preparing to release an investigative report saying that several members of the 82nd Airborne Division on peacekeeping duty in Kosovo beat, threatened and assaulted civilians, officials said Friday.

The formerly classified report also raises questions about the kinds of training these men received in preparation for peacekeeping duty, the officials said. They discussed the matter on the condition they not be identified.

The central conclusions of the report were publicly disclosed during the trial in Germany of Staff Sgt. Frank Ronghi, who was sentenced in August to life in prison with no chance for parole for the murder, sodomy and rape of an 11-year-old Kosovo Albanian girl.

The most sensational conclusion of the report—that several members of Ronghi's platoon in the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment beat, threatened and illegally detained civilians in Kosovo—was publicly disclosed by government attorneys in the Ronghi trial. These acts were accepted as fact by both the prosecution and the defense, but the report itself was not made public because it contained classified information.

The Army has removed the classified material and will release a redacted copy of the report Monday, officials said. The men accused of the misbehavior were punished—though not jailed—this year. They are based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

United Nations S/2000/878

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 September 2000

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). In paragraph 20 of that resolution, the Council requested me to report at regular intervals on the implementation of the mandate of UNMIK. The current report covers the activities of UNMIK and developments in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, since my report of 6 June 2000 (S/2000/538; see also S/2000/538/Add.1).

II. Overview

A. Highlights

2. The most recent achievement of UNMIK was the timely completion of the first phase of the civil registration process, for which over 1 million registration applications were received. The registration was a major success with the ethnic Albanian population, with some 90 per cent of the province's Albanian community participating. UNMIK made major efforts to ensure that the registration would be simple and safe. Nevertheless, widespread intimidation from hard-line Kosovo Serb elements, including open threats to cut off pensions or inflict physical injury as well as fears about security, dissuaded the vast majority of Kosovo Serbs from participating in the process. In addition, Kosovo Turkish participation was limited because of ongoing divisions within that community over demands regarding the status of the Turkish language, as well as dissatisfaction with the representation of the Turkish community. Some elements of the Kosovo Turkish leadership repeatedly rejected UNMIK proposals designed to ensure the full use of the Turkish language in municipalities where that community resides and continued to demand the adoption of Turkish as a third national language.

3. In the run-up to the municipal elections, my Special Representative has launched a public outreach campaign in order to heighten the level of dialogue between UNMIK and the local population. As part of the campaign, he is holding "town hall" meetings in villages and municipalities across the province. To date, these meetings have been attended by thousands of local residents and have been characterized by a free and open exchange of views between the audience and my Special Representative. My Special Representative has used these occasions to urge the population to participate in the upcoming elections and to call for tolerance among ethnic communities. The campaign will continue through the end of September, with three to five town hall meetings being held on a weekly basis in different municipalities across the province.

B. Political situation

4. On the political front, UNMIK has made substantial progress in consolidating the participation of moderate Kosovo Serb elements in the joint interim administration. This progress is particularly noteworthy given that, in the face of escalating ethnic violence, the

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Serb National Council (SNC) of Gracanica temporarily suspended its participation in both the Interim Administrative Council (IAC) and the Kosovo Transitional Council (KTC) at the beginning of June. The suspension was lifted on 25 June following a series of concerted initiatives by the international community to encourage SNC Gracanica to rejoin IAC and KTC. Those measures included direct meetings between members of the Security Council and an SNC Gracanica delegation in New York during the early part of June. In addition, my Special Representative signed a Joint Understanding with Bishop Artemije of SNC Gracanica outlining steps to be taken to enhance both security and access to services for members of the Kosovo Serb population. Since the signing of the Understanding, representatives of SNC Gracanica have played an increasingly constructive role in both IAC and KTC. Furthermore, SNC Gracanica itself has become a more inclusive body. In early August, 103 Kosovo Serb representatives from all over Kosovo, including from the northern municipalities of Leposavic and Zubin Potok, attended a meeting of SNC Gracanica. The tone of the meeting was extremely positive, with the representatives expressing enthusiasm for SNC Gracanica's ongoing participation in the joint administrative structures.

5. While the Understanding was well received by the Kosovo Serb community, Kosovo Albanian leaders reacted strongly to the document. They repeatedly expressed their concern that it would devolve elements of governance and delegate security powers to the Kosovo Serb population. Provisions in the regulation on self-government of municipalities, which called for the establishment of local community offices — a mechanism designed to improve minority access to municipal services — were criticized on similar grounds. This concern over potential divisions of the province culminated in the walk-out of Hashim Thaci and his Party for Democratic Progress of Kosovo (PDK) from IAC and KTC. Local co-heads of administrative departments nominated by PDK also suspended their work. Following intensive efforts by UNMIK, the draft regulation was subsequently endorsed by IAC on 11 July, and PDK resumed its participation in both IAC and KTC shortly thereafter.

6. Despite tension over the signing of the Understanding, encouraging signs of inter-ethnic political dialogue have emerged. From 21 to 23 July, 40 representatives of Kosovo Serb and Albanian communities met in Airlie, Virginia, United States of America, at a conference convened by the United States Institute of Peace. The conference produced the unanimously supported Airlie Declaration, in which all participants agreed that building democracy in Kosovo was of the highest priority and that free elections were a key element in the process. The Declaration also recognized the fundamental right of all Kosovo residents to return to the province and that the cultivation of a strong and vibrant multi-ethnic civil society was essential for the future of Kosovo. The conference participants also committed themselves to a "pact against violence", which would promote tolerance, prevent negative exploitation of ethnic issues and enable physical integration and political participation by all residents of the province. The IAC and KTC representatives have expressed strong support for the Airlie Declaration, and discussions are now being held on how to transform it into a series of concrete initiatives. UNMIK has expressed its willingness to play an active role in this effort.

7. The direct involvement of the local population in the interim administration of Kosovo continues through the work of the 20 Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS) departments. Out of 40 co-head positions (20 international and 20 local), 20 international and 17 local co-heads have now been appointed.

8. The activities of IAC were temporarily disrupted by SNC Gracanica's and Mr. Thaci's suspension of participation in that body (see paras. 4 and 5 above). Since then, IAC has worked intensively and productively, addressing issues of political relevance and discussing and endorsing a large number of UNMIK draft regulations. For its part, KTC has consolidated its role as Kosovo's most inclusive consultative forum on political issues. A second Kosovo Turkish representative has joined KTC, thus completing Kosovo Turkish representation in the body. KTC representatives of the Kosovo Egyptian and Ashkalija communities have yet to be identified. Discussions on this issue are being held with leaders from both communities. KTC has also continued to be an important forum for the discussion of the work of JIAS departments. Furthermore, on 16 August, the Commander of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) attended a KTC session. This was the first time that the KPC Commander had participated in an open and direct dialogue with representatives from all of

Kosovo's ethnic communities. The presence of SNC Gracanica was particularly encouraging in this regard. Members of all communities were encouraged to apply for professional positions in KPC.

9. In addition to the existing JIAS structures, UNMIK continues to develop provisional institutions through which responsibility for the interim administration of the province may be increasingly shared with the local population. To this end, my Special Representative has presented his initial concept of a "pact" for Kosovo society. Formerly referred to as the "contract", the pact will involve a step-by-step elaboration of a legal framework for substantial autonomy and community protection during the interim administrative period. It will not address the issue of Kosovo's final status. The pact will include mechanisms to protect the rights of Kosovo's various ethnic communities and will cover the eventual establishment of Kosovo-wide institutions for genuine self-government. All such institutions will remain under the authority of my Special Representative in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999).

10. The first element of the pact, the regulation on self-government of municipalities (regulation 2000/45), was signed on 11 August by my Special Representative. The regulation determines the nature and competencies of the municipalities, their elected and administrative bodies and their relations with the central authorities. The bulk of the document's provisions will enter into force after the 28 October municipal elections. At that time, the municipalities will be delegated a range of responsibilities in a number of areas, including education, housing, primary health care and other social services. Funding for the municipalities will come from the central authority and local sources. Municipalities will be allowed to generate revenue through such mechanisms as the issuance of licences, the assessment of fees and the collection of fines.

11. The regulation also includes measures to ensure the non-discriminatory provision of municipal services and fair representation of minority communities within the municipal structures. As part of this effort, UNMIK is already in the process of establishing local community offices in the majority of Kosovo's municipalities. Each office will — in instances where security does not permit freedom of movement for minorities — establish further satellite offices so that all Kosovo residents, regardless of ethnicity, can enjoy access to municipal services. Offices have been established, or are in the process of being set up, in all but seven municipalities. The aim is to have at least one office in each municipality by the time municipal elections are held at the end of October. It should be noted that all municipal institutions are provisional in nature and that ultimate authority for all matters pertaining to the administration of the province will continue to reside in the hands of my Special Representative.

12. UNMIK continues to strengthen ongoing and regular contacts with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia authorities, which are conducted through the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Committee for Cooperation with UNMIK in Pristina. Those contacts focus on a number of issues, including the civil registration process, the upcoming municipal elections, the security of the Kosovo Serb community, returnees, detainees and missing persons. Discussion on the terms of reference for the agreed Joint Consultative Committee, which is intended to deal with practical transboundary issues of mutual interest, also continued. In addition, UNMIK concluded a memorandum of understanding with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 30 June, which seeks to improve cooperation between the two customs services, coordinate and harmonize customs procedures, expedite the flow of passengers and cargo and normalize trade.

C. Security situation

13. One of the main concerns of UNMIK in the pre-election period is the recent rise in politically motivated violence, particularly against members of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). There were a series of attacks against LDK members in the latter half of July and in August. The most serious incident was the murder of a member of the Istok LDK presidency, whose body was discovered 5 August in Srbica. Since the beginning of August, three other local LDK representatives have been the target of shooting incidents, and one local LDK office has been bombed.

14. UNMIK has taken several initiatives to address the threat of politically motivated violence. These include the establishment of both an Information Coordination Group and an Operational Task Force to identify trends and to implement security strategies to respond to and deter political violence. The

Information Coordination Group includes representatives from all pillars and agencies, as well as representatives of UNMIK police and KFOR. The Operational Task Force consists of senior operations planners from UNMIK police and KFOR, along with a representative of the Election Appeals Subcommission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is granted executive powers by the regulation on municipal elections in Kosovo (regulation 2000/39 of 8 July). The Task Force has developed detailed procedures to provide security support to at-risk candidates and for major events during the municipal election campaign period.

15. UNMIK has placed a high priority on deterring and responding to election-related violence, and my Special Representative has requested that the investigation of all incidents of suspected political violence be given the highest priority. UNMIK police have accordingly reallocated additional resources and focus to this area, temporarily decreasing the resources available to other ongoing activities. In addition, UNMIK intends to vigorously enforce the election code of conduct, which strictly prohibits the involvement of political entities in any form of violence or intimidation, and the Mission will strike out any candidate or political party from the ballot in cases where involvement in politically motivated violence can be substantiated.

16. Incidents of civil unrest occurred in various Kosovo Serb communities across Kosovo. In the Gnjilane and Prizren regions, attacks against members of these communities were followed by attacks against UNMIK and KFOR personnel. In Strpce (Gnjilane region), a well-organized group of Kosovo Serbs ransacked and vandalized the UNMIK municipal building on 23 June following the disappearance of a local Serb. In Velica Hoca (Prizren region), violent protests erupted following a string of explosions targeting Kosovo Serb properties. Two UNMIK vehicles were destroyed and local Kosovo Serbs blockaded the town, temporarily preventing UNMIK police and KFOR from carrying out an investigation into the earlier incidents. In both cases UNMIK and KFOR were able to restore order quickly through concerted security action and dialogue with community leaders.

17. Mitrovica continues to be a flashpoint. Upsurges in violence, which struck the city during the third week in June and the latter half of July, underscored the fragility of the peace process in northern Kosovo. During those periods incidents of inter-ethnic violence were accompanied by repeated outbreaks of public unrest in the northern part of the city. This unrest became particularly acute on two occasions, following the arrest of Kosovo Serbs by UNMIK police. In the wake of the detention of one Kosovo Serb with direct ties to SNC Mitrovica, an UNMIK police officer was illegally detained, several apartments were broken into and ransacked, and weapons and equipment were seized from some UNMIK police officers.

18. A KFOR weapons search, which began on 15 June, resulted in the discovery of two concrete bunkers filled with a large cache of weapons and a training site near Klecka village in the central Drenica Valley. A further substantial cache of weapons was subsequently discovered on 18 June. The weapons discovered included a large number of grenades, mortars, small arms, ammunition and other explosives. According to documents found at the site, the weapons belonged to the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The Commander of the Kosovo Protection Corps has denied all knowledge of the caches.

19. Low-intensity guerrilla activity continued to be observed in Presevo Valley in southern Serbia. There have been intermittent reports of violent clashes between the self-styled Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac (UCPMB) and Serbian security forces. At the end of July, a series of incidents, including extended exchanges of gunfire and mortar attacks, were recorded inside the ground safety zone east of Dobrosin. While there has been no major influx of displaced ethnic Albanians in response to this violence, 138 new arrivals have registered for assistance with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Gnjilane and Pristina regions over the past three months, the majority having arrived in the early months of the reporting period.

20. Activities related to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia elections scheduled for 24 September are a potential source of concern with respect to security in Kosovo. On at least one occasion, Serbian politicians arrived in the province without warning to campaign in Kosovo Serb communities. Not only do such actions put those associated with the visit in danger, but they may also have wider repercussions for the general security situation. UNMIK, in close cooperation with KFOR, will consider how to respond to such activities

on a case-by-case basis. A joint coordination committee has been established for this purpose.

D. Status of the Mission

21. The three components or pillars of UNMIK are OSCE, which heads the institution-building pillar, the European Union, which heads the economic reconstruction pillar, and the United Nations, which heads the civil administration pillar. The humanitarian affairs pillar, headed by UNHCR, was phased out in mid-July. The United Nations Volunteer programme, with volunteers from 83 countries, is working with UNMIK in various areas, including in the regional and municipal administration, on civil registration and in a number of specialized fields.

22. The Executive Committee, comprising my Special Representative, his principal deputy and the Deputy Special Representatives, continues to meet on a daily basis. As part of its effort to streamline gender issues throughout UNMIK, gender-sensitive training has been initiated for Mission personnel with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women. In addition, a network of gender focal points have been identified in the JIAS departments, as well as in the regional and municipal offices. These focal points are responsible for initiating and implementing gender policy in their respective areas and for facilitating consultation between UNMIK and women's organizations.

III. United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo police

23. The Mission's civilian police strength is approaching 4,000 officers, representing 85 per cent of the total authorized strength of 4,718 officers. Police personnel are presently distributed as follows: 721 in the Pristina region, 531 in the Mitrovica region, 421 in the Prizren region, 416 in the Gnjilane region, 278 in the Pec region, 225 in the UNMIK border police, 707 in 6 special police units, 231 at UNMIK police main headquarters, 172 in Kosovo Police Service (KPS) development and 45 in internal training.

24. UNMIK police still have primary responsibility for criminal investigations in all regions and have executive law enforcement responsibilities throughout the Pristina and Prizren regions. In the Gnjilane and Pec regions, primacy for protection and security functions are divided between KFOR and UNMIK police on a municipality-by-municipality basis. In the Mitrovica region, KFOR retains primary responsibility for protection and security.

25. Since 1 January, UNMIK police have investigated more than 200 murder cases, 1,309 cases of assault, 314 cases of arson, 82 cases of rape or sexual assault, 7,322 cases of theft or burglary and 186 grenade attacks. While the availability of equipment required to perform executive police functions has continued to improve, some serious shortfalls remain, in particular for forensic investigation and analysis.

26. The level and sophistication of the joint security operations conducted by UNMIK police and KFOR continued to develop in many regions. Joint operation centres are fully established at central region/brigade levels, as well as at station/battalion levels, in the Pristina, Gnjilane and Prizren regions. KFOR and UNMIK police cooperate closely in the security management of major public events, pre-election security, countering political violence and providing special security measures for threatened minority communities in Kosovo. Such operations have proved vital for the Mission's ability to ensure public safety and law and order with limited civilian police resources.

27. UNMIK police have concentrated on developing a Special Security Task Force, which is charged with designing measures to combat ethnically targeted violence. At the top of the Task Force's agenda is the need to address the threat facing the Kosovo Serb community. The Task Force works closely with KFOR on measures to enhance joint security operations. Emphasis is being placed upon building a "partnership for security" at the local community and neighbourhood levels. UNMIK police will help in educating the local population about crime prevention and general security practices and will strengthen information-sharing with local residents. The Task Force will also develop recommendations for preventive investigation and enforcement measures.

28. UNMIK has deployed 6 of its 10 authorized special police units: 2 from India, 2 from Jordan, 1 from Pakistan and 1 from Spain. The deployment of those units has added substantially to the capacity of UNMIK to carry out tactical police functions. Among other activities, special police units provide special protection to UNMIK facilities and the internationally staffed courthouse in Mitrovica; carry out patrols, undertake checkpoint duty and other special protection measures in minority community areas; provide security for major events; support the UNMIK customs service and border functions at the Blace border crossing; and provide support to the police Special Operations Unit in conducting high-risk arrests.

29. UNMIK police provide protection for at-risk persons, including international judges and prosecutors, key UNMIK partners within the minority communities and visiting dignitaries and other high-profile individuals. Presently, the 55 qualified UNMIK police close-protection officers, recruited from existing UNMIK police personnel who have specialized experience and training, are overwhelmed by the demand for these much-needed services. The rapid recruitment of at least 160 additional close-protection officers is a high priority.

30. A total of 1,692 Kosovo Police Service field trainees have graduated from the KPS school and are deployed with UNMIK police field-training officers throughout Kosovo. The largest number of trainees are deployed in the Pristina region, followed by the Prizren, Gnjilane, Pec and Mitrovica regions. KPS field trainees are deployed to all major units of UNMIK police, with the exception of the Central Criminal Investigations Unit and Special Operations. In the Pristina and Gnjilane regions, they have been instrumental in a number of successful UNMIK police operations.

31. UNMIK continues to be successful in recruiting both minority and female candidates into KPS in accordance with its general recruitment targets. The overall percentage of minorities in the service stands at 13 per cent, while female representation is 22 per cent. In most locations, individual KPS field trainees are deployed to areas where their own ethnic community predominates. However, UNMIK police have successfully implemented joint deployments in some mixed areas such as Kamenica in the Gnjilane region.

IV. Protection of minority communities and human rights

A. Situation of minority communities

32. Kosovo's ethnic minority communities continue to be the target of threats, intimidation and violent attacks. During the reporting period, violence against the Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Roma population was particularly pronounced. During the months of June and July, a number of Kosovo Serbs were murdered, including a 67-year-old woman killed in a drive-by shooting and an elderly man shot to death while tending to his cattle in Gnjilane. Other serious attacks included the shooting of a Serbian Orthodox priest and his two assistants in Klokot, the burning of Serb-owned homes in Orahovac and Vitina and mortar attacks in the Kosovo Serb communities of Velika Hoca and Gorazdevac. During the latter half of August, Kosovo Serb children were the victims of two violent incidents. In Obilic (Pristina region), unknown persons threw several hand grenades at a group of Kosovo Serb children playing basketball. Ten children were slightly injured in the attack. In Lipljan (Pristina region), two Albanian males were arrested after their vehicle ran into four Kosovo Serb children, leaving one child dead and three injured.

33. Attacks against the Roma community have also been of concern. The most serious incident occurred in August, when three Kosovo Roma were killed and a fourth was injured in a mortar attack in the ethnically mixed village of Mali Alas (Pristina region). Also in the Pristina region, the Kosovo Roma population in Stimlje suffered a spate of grenade and rocket attacks in early July. More recently, a rocket attack on the Kosovo Roma community in northern Mitrovica left four persons wounded, including one child.

34. Repeated violent flare-ups in Mitrovica have provoked renewed ethnic tension and have led to additional departures of Kosovo Albanian families from the northern side of the city. In July alone, more than 20 ethnic Albanian families from northern Mitrovica registered for assistance with UNHCR on the southern side of the city. Some families have reported being verbally or physically threatened, having their homes attacked or entered by force, receiving phone calls warning them to leave, or being summarily "evicted" from their homes. This renewed displacement appears to have been sparked by fear of

reprisals following the arrest by UNMIK police of a Kosovo Serb suspected of arson, theft and assault in the northern part of the city. Displaced Kosovo Albanians have been accommodated either with host families or in a temporary transit centre. UNHCR has daily contact with many of the ethnic Albanian families still in northern Mitrovica and continues to monitor the situation closely.

35. In response to ongoing ethnic violence, UNMIK and KFOR have continued to explore all possible avenues for improving the security of ethnic minorities. Examples of these initiatives include the introduction of speed deterrent obstacles (designed to deter drive-by shootings) in Kosovo Serb and ethnically mixed villages in Gnjilane, as well as enhanced security for ethnic minorities in agricultural areas during the harvesting period.

36. In addition, my Special Representative has launched a new initiative designed to improve conditions and services for Kosovo's non-Serb minority communities. The initiative envisages special support programmes for these communities in a number of areas, including health, education, social welfare and public services. To this end, my Special Representative has intensified direct contacts with the non-Serb minority population. He has already held an initial round of constructive consultations with representatives from Kosovo's Roma, Bosniac, Gorani, Turkish, Egyptian and Ashkalija communities in support of the initiative.

37. Finally, special steps have been taken to foster both dialogue and an atmosphere of tolerance between the Kosovo Albanian population and specific ethnic minorities. To this end, UNHCR has facilitated two visits by Kosovo Albanian political leaders to Kosovo Roma and Kosovo Ashkalija communities. On 7 June, Kosovo Albanian members of IAC visited Roma and Ashkalija communities in Prizren and Urosevac, and on 28 August a similar visit was made to the Roma community in Pec. My Special Representative headed the 28 August visit. The visits were designed to demonstrate the commitment of Kosovo Albanian leaders to inter-ethnic tolerance, non-discrimination and the return of displaced persons. They were part of the Platform for Joint Action and came in the wake of a series of humanitarian round-table discussions conducted in early 2000 by the Mission with these communities.

B. Human rights

38. Violations of human rights in all of Kosovo's ethnic communities continue to be of serious concern. The criminal justice system remains ill-equipped to provide adequate redress for human rights violations. The irregular conduct of some criminal trials involving members of ethnic minorities has highlighted the need to ensure the impartiality of the courts and the equal treatment of defendants before them. The deployment of international judges and prosecutors in Kosovo's district courts has improved confidence in the criminal justice system.

39. Although the issue of delays in the court system is being addressed, a number of defendants continue to face lengthy periods of pre-trial detention. Defendants have also encountered difficulties in gaining timely access to mechanisms to review the necessity and lawfulness of their detention. Moreover, problems relating to access to and effectiveness of counsel have affected the quality of representation and the ability of defendants to properly present their defence at trial. The court system has also suffered from inconsistencies in approach to the applicable law and from a lack of understanding of the relevant international human rights laws. These fundamental concerns are heightened with regard to trials involving vulnerable groups, such as juveniles, and to specific categories of cases involving, for example, sexual offences and minorities.

40. UNMIK police confirm that trafficking in persons is a growing and serious problem in Kosovo. A draft regulation on trafficking is currently under review. The regulation will ensure adequate legal protection for the victims of trafficking and provide a legal basis for the prosecution of the specific offences of trafficking and illegal possession of identity papers and/or travel documents. In addition to this legislative initiative, a safe house for victims of trafficking has been set up in order to provide them with physical assistance until they are repatriated to their country of origin. To date, some 65 females have received assistance at this shelter.

C. Detained and missing persons

41. Representatives from Kosovo's various ethnic communities continue to voice concern regarding the fate of missing persons and detainees. This issue

remains a major source of tension in inter-ethnic relations. I therefore welcome the decision of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to appoint Ambassador Henrik Amneus (Sweden) as her Special Envoy on persons deprived of liberty in connection with the Kosovo crisis in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Special Envoy's mandate will cover all persons deprived of liberty, including prisoners, detainees and missing persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, regardless of ethnicity. The Special Envoy will seek a comprehensive solution to the issue of the missing and detained, rather than intervening in individual cases.

42. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 3,476 cases of missing persons from Kosovo remain unresolved. Approximately 600 of these are ethnic Serbs and Roma, most of whom were reported missing after June 1999. ICRC also reports that some 942 detainees from Kosovo are currently held in prisons in Serbia. Over the course of the past three months, 234 prisoners have been released by Serbian authorities. Despite those releases, concern over the welfare of those left in detention continues. The families of the detained are under extreme emotional strain, and security concerns prohibit most from travelling to Serbia to visit their relatives. Concern has been expressed regarding the extent to which detainees still subject to criminal proceedings in Serbia can receive a fair trial.

43. Since June, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia has exhumed human remains from 150 grave sites containing approximately 650 bodies, of which some 350 are unidentified. In order to facilitate identification, the Victim Recovery and Identification Commission — the UNMIK body responsible for coordination of the recovery, identification and reburial of human remains and the issuance of death certificates — has continued to collect ante-mortem data from the families of missing persons. Following the exhumations and post-mortems, a number of public displays of clothing and other personal items belonging to the unidentified bodies have been organized and attended by family members of the missing. The Commission is presently preparing a publication containing detailed photos of those exhibits. The photos will be made available to all communities in Kosovo, including minorities. Since my last report, a further 70 of the recovered bodies have been identified (all ethnic Albanians).

V. Establishment of the judicial system and the rule of law

A. Judicial system

44. On 9 August my Special Representative appointed 136 additional local professional judges and prosecutors and 309 additional lay judges. Of the newly appointed professional judges and prosecutors, 16 are from non-Albanian ethnic groups and 24 are women. The new appointments bring the judicial personnel in Kosovo almost to the target level deemed sufficient to meet the demand facing the court system. A total of 56 courts and 13 prosecutors' offices are now staffed with judicial personnel, and 724 support staff have been assigned to the judiciary.

45. Refurbishment of judicial establishments has been ongoing, and an important capital project to improve the facilities at 30 such establishments is under way. The United States Government has donated equipment worth $2.5 million, and all courts have been supplied with electronic equipment and office necessities.

46. The increased human and material resources provided to the judicial system have resulted in greater levels of activity, and there is every indication that this trend will continue. For example, according to the latest statistics, a total of 304 persons were tried in district, municipal and minor offence courts over the course of March and April, while for the period from 1 May to 7 June alone, that number grew to 367. Since the swearing-in of judges, prosecutors and lay judges in January and February, a total of 116 trials have been conducted in the district courts of Kosovo: 31 in Gnjilane district court, 26 in Pristina district court, 21 in Pec, 32 in Prizren and 6 in Mitrovica.

47. Seven international judges and three international prosecutors, from Finland, France, Germany, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States, have been appointed to the district courts of Kosovo. There are plans to have a total of 12 international judges and 5 international prosecutors. In addition, 34 local and international staff have been employed as legal officers, translators, court recorders and administrative staff to support the work of the international judges and prosecutors. The international judges and prosecutors have the power to select from

new or pending cases those in which they wish to become involved. Those cases often concern war and ethnically related crimes ranging from genocide to kidnapping. In many instances, the accused is a member of an ethnic minority. Eight trials in which an international judge has participated have already been completed.

B. Penal system

48. The penal system in Kosovo continues to be managed by three institutions: UNMIK police, the UNMIK Department of Judicial Affairs and KFOR. UNMIK police are currently responsible for the detention centres in Pristina, Gnjilane and Mitrovica. KFOR manages two detention centres, one in Pec and the other in Camp Bondsteel (Gnjilane region). The Department for Judicial Affairs is responsible for three detention facilities, including one in Prizren, a second in Lipljan (Pristina region) and a third — the Dubrava prison — located near Istok (Pec region). Collectively, those facilities have a capacity of 830 places. At the end of August some 340 of those spaces were in use. UNMIK will take over responsibility for the KFOR-run centres in Pec and Gnjilane in the coming months. By the end of August, a total of 532 locals had been recruited as correction officers and assigned to various prisons and detention centres throughout Kosovo.

49. On 2 September, 15 Kosovo Serb detainees overpowered UNMIK police guards at the detention centre in northern Mitrovica and escaped from the facility. While 2 of the escapees were quickly recaptured by KFOR, 13 still remain at large. Of those, two had been indicted for genocide, one for murder and another for arson and theft. The remaining nine escapees had been charged with war crimes, but had not been indicted.

50. UNMIK views the escape with the utmost concern. The incident dealt a significant blow to the Mission's ongoing efforts to foster public confidence in the justice system and the rule of law. In the immediate wake of the escape, UNMIK police conducted a full internal investigation that revealed serious deficiencies in the administration of the detention facility. As a result, disciplinary action has been taken with respect to a number of individuals involved in the operation of the centre. In addition, a comprehensive overhaul of the security and management systems at the detention centre has been undertaken. The guard force is being enhanced in both quality and size. New safeguards, including daily cell searches and extra gates and bars, have also been put into place. More generally, UNMIK has conducted security reviews of all detention facilities in Kosovo and has made the prevention of further escapes one of its highest priorities.

C. Rule-of-law activities

51. On 30 June my Special Representative signed regulation 2000/38 on the ombudsperson institution and subsequently appointed Marek Nowicki (Poland) to the position of Ombudsperson. This independent institution is scheduled to become operational in the near future and will investigate and mediate complaints from individuals, groups and organizations regarding human rights violations and other abuses of power by the authorities. An awareness campaign has been carried out to inform the public of its role.

52. UNMIK, with the assistance of experts from the Council of Europe, has organized training seminars for local judges and prosecutors on the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The seminars represent an important step towards ensuring that the judiciary operates within a framework of international human rights standards. However, there is a need to increase efforts to ensure that all local judges and prosecutors receive comprehensive and ongoing training in international human rights law.

53. The Kosovo Judicial Institute, an independent institute established by the institution-building pillar, organized a round-table discussion on 27 and 28 July focusing on the relationship between the judiciary and the police during the investigative stage of a criminal case. The round table was attended by both local and international experts and resulted in the compilation of a handbook that will be used to train police.

54. On 15 June UNMIK opened the Kosovo Law Centre. The Centre is registered as a non-governmental organization and serves as a research centre and publishing house for Kosovo's legal community. The Centre has published a compilation of the applicable criminal law and houses a library of legal and human rights documents, as well as an office for the Kosovo Bar Association. The Centre coordinates donor assistance for the law faculty at Pristina University.

VI. Humanitarian activities

55. UNMIK cooperates closely on humanitarian and other issues with UNHCR, the Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Kosovo and other United Nations partners such as the World Food Programme, UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, as well as with the International Organization for Migration, ICRC, the International Labour Organization, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and more than 250 international and 45 local non-governmental organizations.

A. Transition of the humanitarian programme to longer-term development and reconstruction

56. On 15 July the humanitarian pillar of UNMIK was officially phased out as a formal component of the UNMIK administration and a handover was made to the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Kosovo. The Humanitarian Coordinator reports directly to the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and functions under the overall authority of my Special Representative. The Humanitarian Coordinator also serves as the Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

57. The focus of the Humanitarian Coordinator's activities so far has been the establishment of a humanitarian accounting project, which aims to identify gaps in the transition from emergency to development work in all communities in Kosovo. The project will also review what assistance will be needed from United Nations agencies in order to fill those gaps over the coming winter. Under the direction of the Special Envoy, UNHCR is concentrating on stabilizing the existing situation in minority communities, on assisting any spontaneous return movements of Kosovo Serbs and on cautiously facilitating small-scale "go-and-see" visits of displaced Kosovo Serbs in Serbia and Kosovo Roma in Montenegro.

B. Returns

58. The Steering Committee of the Joint Committee on Returns for Kosovo Serbs to Kosovo has conducted assessments of potential return locations throughout the province, including Slivovo (Pristina region) and more recently Osojane (Pec region), Grace (Mitrovica region) and Mushnikovo (Prizren region). Despite continuing challenges to the security of minority communities, some small-scale spontaneous returns have taken place, including 35 Kosovo Serb internally displaced persons to Slivovo (Pristina region) and some 100 to the village of Grace in Vucitrn (Mitrovica region). In the wake of those returns, a representative of the Serb National Council of Mitrovica attended a meeting of the Steering Committee on 31 July. This marked the first time SNC Mitrovica participated in a Kosovo-wide institution. SNC Mitrovica members subsequently became involved in a plan to organize go-and-see visits for Kosovo Serbs to the Osojane valley (Istok municipality, Pec region). On 25 August UNHCR organized a go-and-see visit for 15 displaced Kosovo Serbs to 5 villages in Osojane.

59. The UNHCR Special Envoy for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia made his first official visit to Belgrade at the beginning of August, during which the central topic of discussion was the return of Kosovo Serbs to the province. In a meeting with the Federal Minister for Refugees, the Special Envoy expressed the position of UNHCR that it was not possible to promote returns until conditions for a safe, dignified and sustainable return were in place. He also raised the issue of the detainees in Serbia.

60. During his visit to Serbia, the Special Envoy also visited displaced Kosovo Serbs in collective centres in Kraljevo and Smederevo. All the internally displaced persons expressed a desire to return to their homes in Kosovo, but their views differed on what conditions must be in place. Most were extremely concerned about their current conditions in Serbia, particularly with the approach of winter. This was especially so for those being forced to leave their host-family arrangements and who lacked the means to support themselves. Meanwhile, the collective accommodation available in Serbia is full and generally in poor condition. For the most part, the Kosovo Serb internally displaced persons are not accepted by the local communities, as they are a burden on the health, education and employment systems.

61. Slow but steady progress on Roma returns to Kosovo has been achieved with a limited number of returns from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. While UNHCR is not yet promoting the return of Kosovo Roma because of the security situation, go-and-see visits are being organized to carefully selected areas. UNHCR is also exploring return prospects for an additional 100 persons from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. UNHCR has facilitated go-and-see visits for a small group of displaced Kosovo Roma from Montenegro to an area in the Pec region and further visits are expected. However, information from the Montenegro side indicates that the Roma are waiting for the planned visit of the Kosovo Albanian leaders to Pec before making any decision concerning return.

62. To date, more than 880,000 persons have returned to Kosovo since June 1999 (both spontaneously and in organized efforts). Since the beginning of the year, more than 59,200 Kosovo Albanians have come back to the province voluntarily as part of organized returns from various countries in Western and Central Europe as well as from North America. The majority of returnees have come from Germany (30,700) and Switzerland (15,500). Voluntary organized returns have exceeded 10,000 a month in recent months. Most countries have not yet indicated clearly whether they will continue with returns during the winter months. UNMIK is seeking the cooperation of host countries, particularly Germany and Switzerland, to scale down the rate of return during that period, as the facilities necessary to handle large-scale returns are not yet available.

63. While voluntary return movements from Western Europe and other countries have been continuing at a regular pace, forced returns from a few countries are rapidly increasing, jumping from some 600 in May to more than 1,700 in July. Since forced returns began in February, more than 5,600 persons have been returned involuntarily to Kosovo. This figure includes some 3,300 from Germany and more than 2,300 from Switzerland. Although the Governments involved normally uphold the Mission's position on not forcing the return of minorities, a number of protection cases involving both Kosovo Roma and Gorani minorities have been detected. In addition, there have been a few cases of forced returns of persons originating from southern Serbia.

C. Mine action

64. The UNMIK mine action programme, under the leadership of the UNMIK Mine Action Coordination Centre, estimates that the task of clearing Kosovo will be completed by December 2001. The Centre has prepared an exit strategy to address the transfer of responsibilities, including continued clearance of any residual threat as well as mine awareness and victim assistance, to the appropriate JIAS departments. The success of the programme is reflected in the declining number of civilian casualties, which totalled five in August. A total of 103 persons have been killed and 394 injured in mine or unexploded ordnance incidents since June 1999. Incidents involving cluster munitions dropped by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have decreased dramatically, thanks to a change in clearance strategy that has greatly increased the speed with which the easily accessed cluster bomb units are being cleared. Mine-clearance activities continued throughout the period under review. To date, 4,586 anti-personnel mines, 4,315 anti-tank mines, 4,932 cluster bombs and 5,853 items of unexploded ordnance have been cleared by teams coordinated by the Centre.

VII. Sectoral developments

A. Reconstruction

65. Extensive building activities are taking place throughout Kosovo. Private initiative contributes tremendously to the reconstruction effort and is highly welcomed by the Mission. The selection process for this year's housing reconstruction target of 20,000 houses rebuilt by the international donor community is nearly finished. This process involves municipal administrations, donors and implementing partners, as well as the residents of the targeted villages and municipalities. UNMIK has issued administrative instructions to speed up the final selection of all beneficiary families. This measure is aimed at accelerating the process, which constitutes a crucial stage in the housing reconstruction programme.

66. Work has started on the preparation of a public reconstruction and investment programme for the period from 2001 to 2003. This will set out Kosovo's needs in the medium term, by the end of which the reconstruction process should be nearing completion.

In addition, a database, the Reconstruction Intervention Monitoring System, has been set up to summarize and analyse all reconstruction projects. The database will contain standardized and comparable information on completed and ongoing projects.

67. In order to bolster the Mission's human resources and its expertise in the area of reconstruction, 18 experts have been seconded recently from the supreme headquarters of the allied Powers in Europe. Split into eight regional cells, they are to provide assistance in regional reconstruction activities and help in collecting data for the new database.

B. Health and social welfare

68. Since June there has been progressive improvement in the delivery of health-care services to the residents of Kosovo. A Licensing and Registration Board has been established to evaluate the qualifications and skills of health-care professionals and issue licences to practice. Efforts to restructure the health workforce are ongoing. A board has also been established to oversee the training of medical specialists and channel medical graduates to those areas of specialty where needs are the greatest. The Institute of Public Health is focusing on water, sanitation, food safety, epidemiological surveillance, immunization and health education, with special attention to environmental and occupational health.

69. The start of regular delivery of drugs and medical supplies procured through the Kosovo consolidated budget marked the transition from an emergency to a sustainable supply system. A regulation on pharmaceuticals, focusing on the import, manufacture, sale and distribution of pharmaceutical products, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances has been promulgated (regulation 2000/52 of 2 September). This will discourage the abuse of drugs and ensure the circulation of safe, effective, good-quality drugs in Kosovo.

C. Education

70. Significant progress has been made in the field of education. To date, a total of 1.8 million textbooks have been printed and distributed to students of all ethnic groups after being screened for content. A school rehabilitation and reconstruction cell has been established to oversee the building and rehabilitation of schools. The issuance of school certificates to eligible students has been completed. A model technical school has been opened in Pec, and pilot centres for vocational training will be opened soon. Technical assistance and structural reforms for schools and Pristina University are ongoing with the assistance of the World Bank. In July the University was readmitted to the Association of European Universities. Special programmes for minority communities are being finalized.

71. The new academic year commenced on 1 September, with about 400,000 schoolchildren attending classes taught by more than 20,000 teachers. Nine years of compulsory school education for all children in Kosovo, starting from the age of six years, has been stipulated by UNMIK regulation 2000/51 of 30 August. A completely new curriculum for the law faculty has been completed, and a plan to unify the faculty of mining in Mitrovica with the University has been prepared.

D. Transport and infrastructure

72. UNMIK and KFOR continue to manage the railways in Kosovo. To date, Railways of Kosovo, an entity operating under the Department of Transport and Infrastructure, has been unable to generate sufficient revenue to pay salaries and operational expenses. Instead, it has paid 595 of its workers for the April to July period through a loan from the Central Fiscal Authority. This is the second loan received for the payment of salaries. UNMIK will review the status of Railways of Kosovo in the light of its inability to generate sufficient revenue to meet expenditures. Pristina airport also continues operations under UNMIK and KFOR. Commercial activity remained at a high level for passenger traffic. In July alone there were 283 aircraft movements, with 58,482 passengers and 1,123 tons of baggage handled.

73. Major road repair work began in June, made possible by generous funding from a number of donors. The road repair process is not only expensive but also time-consuming, as sites must be cleared of mines and other obstacles that might affect the safety of operations. The resurfacing of two of the province's heavily used sections of road has been completed, and repairs to two key bridges are under way. Additional repair work on the Pristina-Blace road has commenced in order to sustain the heavy traffic between Kosovo

and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In addition, KFOR has done extensive patching on the main roads in Kosovo. More than DM 7 million has been spent on road works, ranging from pothole-patching to ditch-clearing.

74. The twice-daily passenger train service, available to both Kosovo Albanian and Serb passengers, has resumed operations between Kosovo Polje and Zvecan. Track maintenance and repair work is being undertaken, and plans to gradually expand the railway service are being considered.

E. Post and telecommunications

75. International mail service from Kosovo began on 31 May and operates three days a week. In the months of June and July, approximately 11,000 letters were mailed from Kosovo around the world. The domestic parcels mail service started on 1 August. Postal equipment, including postal vans, computers, furniture and special equipment, funded by the European Agency for Reconstruction, has been received for post offices throughout Kosovo.

76. Repairs to Kosovo's fixed telephone network continue. The Kosovo Serb community of Gracanica (Pristina region) has been reconnected to the Pristina main telephone switchboard. In addition, the area of Mitrovica has been connected directly to the Pristina switchboard.

F. Agriculture

77. The first post-conflict crop has been harvested. Although definitive data are not yet available, it is estimated that the harvest yielded approximately 230,000 tons of wheat. This is higher than recent pre-conflict harvests. A number of agriculture-related projects are in various stages of implementation. The World Bank-FAO project designed to rebuild the rural economy is proceeding as planned. As part of the project, 2,300 cows, 120 new tractors, 120 sets of implements, veterinary equipment and drugs have been distributed to equip the new central veterinary diagnostic laboratory. A new public veterinary service is being organized, and a pilot project on rural microfinance has started. Projects to reorganize the cooperative sector, develop seed potato production and organize laboratory testing of seed quality are also in progress.

G. Environmental protection

78. A six-week environmental awareness campaign, executed entirely by local non-governmental organizations and citizen groups, was conducted in the cities of Pristina, Pec and Prizren. A number of environment-related projects have been executed or are in the process of being implemented. These include a major project for the improvement of the urban environment in the regions of Pristina and Gnjilane, involving the reclaiming of clean-up areas and sustainable waste collection, management and disposal measures at the municipal level.

H. Youth and sports

79. The Department of Youth actively supported the civil registration process through a number of youth-oriented initiatives, including a rock concert. Over the course of the summer, 80 summer coaching camps for young people were held in more than 22 municipalities in Kosovo, 11 of which were conducted in minority areas. As a result, thousands of boys and girls were kept usefully engaged during their summer vacation.

I. Civil security and emergency preparedness

80. Extensive efforts to turn the Kosovo Protection Corps into a capable civil emergency unit have continued. The total strength of KPC, as at mid-August, was 4,552, including 53 from the minority communities. Ten per cent of the total KPC positions remain reserved for minorities. To date, KPC has completed 10,000 person-days of labour on various work projects. The institution received a letter of commendation from the Victim Recovery Identification Committee for its role in organizing the reburial of 67 victims exhumed from a mass grave. KPC members were instrumental in the swift and effective clean-up of the fire hazards posed by the massive quantities of refuse that had collected in the public Media House building. Two firefighting teams have also been established, one each in Prizren and Pristina, which are

now available around the clock to fight brush and urban fires.

81. Specialized training is being carried out to improve the Corps' emergency response capacity. KPC senior and middle management are being given the opportunity to attend leadership and other courses abroad. In addition to basic training, all members of KPC undergo specialized training based on their functional responsibilities. Current training modules include search-and-rescue operations, human resources management, computer training and emergency field operations management.

J. Public services

82. Major steps have been taken to ensure that UNMIK departments are fully functional. Most departments are now covered by various regulations endorsed by IAC and signed by my Special Representative. Several buildings have been acquired and refurbished, and all departments have been allocated adequate office space. The process of decentralized recruitment of local staff by departments and municipalities has been successful, and most local staff have been appointed. Currently there are 54,000 local employees on the Kosovo Consolidated Fund's payroll. A total of DM 109.3 million in local salary payments was disbursed over the first seven months of 2000.

K. Housing and property

83. The Housing and Property Directorate continues to register residential property claims resulting from ethnic discrimination and the recent conflict. The Directorate's office in Pristina has been established, and offices in other regions are in the process of being set up. The opening of regional offices has been delayed by a lack of financial and human resources. In addition, mobile teams are being deployed in minority areas so that claims can be filed by persons from all ethnic groups. Despite the appointment of all members of the Housing and Property Claims Commission, dispute settlement has not yet commenced, as rules of procedure for the Commission have yet to be adopted. The Kosovo Cadastral Agency has been established as the institution responsible for cadastral affairs, and will soon begin work.

L. Central Fiscal Authority

84. Audits of a number of large taxpayers who appear to have under-declared their income are under way. A taxation guide detailing all tax regulations, directions and instructions in three languages is being finalized and will be printed shortly. It will be available on request from all tax and customs offices. The implementation of regulation 2000/35, increasing the fees for car registration, commenced on 22 June. After an initial fall in revenue resulting from vehicle registration, an exceptional measure allowing all cars brought into the region before 23 June to be cleared at the old rate was established. This measure increased registrations and has resulted in a steady increase in revenues, with the weekly target of DM 4 million being consistently exceeded.

M. Banking and payments authority

85. Currently, the Microenterprise Bank is the only bank operating in Kosovo. Preliminary approval has been granted to six additional institutions. The Governing Board of the Banking and Payments Authority of Kosovo has also approved applications from Microenterprise Bank to establish new branches in Gnjilane and Djakovica. This will give the Bank a total of five branches (including those currently operating in Pristina, Prizren and Pec). A full-scope, on-site inspection at the Bank commenced on 3 July, which will aim to identify the Bank's risk in all major areas of activity.

86. Training seminars on basic bank supervision techniques and international accounting standards were held for local employees of the Banking and Payments Authority of Kosovo and bankers. In addition, a set of money-laundering guidance notes was completed for banks and non-bank financial institutions. Following the recent reactivation of the Authority's research and statistical function, a statistical assessment mission was conducted in July by the International Monetary Fund. The mission focused on documenting the functions performed by the Authority, the Statistical Institute of Kosovo, the Central Fiscal Authority and the University of Pristina. It also assessed the suitability of the economic and financial data for analysing and formulating economic policies.

N. Labour

87. The staffing of all employment offices had been completed by the end of July. International technical cooperation projects aimed at promoting employment and building capacity in labour administration and labour market services are in progress.

O. Trade and industry

88. On 14 August UNMIK assumed responsibility for and subsequently shut down the Zvecan lead smelter (Mitrovica region), which is part of the Trepca mining complex. The smelter's operations had resulted in a major health hazard, which threatened both the local community and the international presence stationed in the area. Recent air samples indicated a level of lead pollution 200 times the international standard established by the World Health Organization. Blood tests taken from KFOR and UNMIK police contingents in the area had shown a precipitously rapid increase in lead levels.

89. Since the takeover, UNMIK has taken a number of steps to manage the health crisis and to cushion the economic impact of the plant's closure on the smelter's workforce. Clean-up operations are under way and medical facilities have been set up to test the levels of lead in the blood of both workers and the local population. Almost 3,000 Trepca workers have registered with UNMIK and have been paid an interim stipend. Demonstrations by local Kosovo Serbs in the days immediately following the closure were orderly, and within a week participation in those gatherings had dropped to fewer than 200 individuals.

90. An initial inspection of the smelter indicates widespread neglect and poor safety and environmental standards. The Mission's Trepca administrators, including a consortium of experts from three major international mining companies, are in the process of assessing the technical, environmental and financial viability of not only the smelter, but also of the entire Trepca mining and metallurgical complex. In addition, the administrators will repair or replace safety and production equipment throughout the facility. As part of this effort, up to 2,000 local Trepca workers will be employed over the next year. The budget for this phase of Trepca's renovation is set at $16 million and includes funds for workers' salaries, equipment and payments to the consortium. Most of this sum has already been raised from the European Union, France, Italy and the United States.

91. As part of the ongoing campaign to rejuvenate commercial activity in the province, UNMIK has met with the Kosovera winery to advise it on a commercial contract for export and on arrangements necessary for exporting to the European Union. Discussions are ongoing with the European Agency for Reconstruction to develop a method of channelling European Union funds to socially owned enterprises to facilitate rehabilitation prior to commercialization. With respect to large-scale commercialization, UNMIK has launched a tender process for two enterprises — the nickel mining and smelting complex Ferronikeli and the Mrusha concrete works. The Mission is also assisting Holderbank to secure a limestone quarry to supply the Sharr cement plant.

92. UNMIK, in collaboration with local women's business associations, is encouraging women to enlist in training sessions for entrepreneurs and managers. It is also promoting income-generating projects for women in rural villages by assisting them in the preparation of project proposals for donor agencies and microcredit organizations.

P. Public utilities

93. Preparations to ensure an adequate energy supply for the coming winter have intensified. One of the main power-generation units has been closed down for a major overhaul. The overhaul will last four months and cost DM 80 million, funded by the European Agency for Reconstruction. In order to improve the medium- and long-term potential for coal production, a strategy was chosen that will rely significantly on imported energy. To ensure that transactions proceed in a timely and efficient manner, a technical agreement is being negotiated with the Serbian power company. Bilateral arrangements are being discussed with a number of countries in the Balkans and elsewhere in Europe. Draft agreements for energy exchange with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece are being prepared.

94. The new executive directors of the Kosovo Electric Company have been appointed following a thorough selection process. They assumed their positions on 24 July, when the previous board was released. The new board brings with it a new

philosophy of accountability. It represents a significant step in moving towards a modern, commercially viable company. Restructuring is ongoing.

95. As part of the effort to improve the financial independence and commercial viability of Kosovo's power system, steps have been taken to improve revenue collection, including the disconnection of customers with arrears of over 90 per cent on electricity bills. The result has been a marked increase in bill payment.

Q. Local administration

96. The recent establishment of an Administrative Board in the ethnically mixed municipality of Kosovo Polje brings the total number of municipal boards to 28. Efforts are under way to define and streamline the division of responsibilities between the central JIAS departments and the municipalities in line with the competencies devolved to each by the regulation on the self-government of municipalities in Kosovo. Guidelines are being prepared on the imposition of municipal fees and charges to generate revenue at the municipal level.

97. UNMIK is making a concerted effort to build local capacity throughout Kosovo. Efforts include a joint UNMIK-UNDP preparatory assistance project, which began in July and is expected to last four months. The project focuses on the development of planning and management capabilities and is currently under way in the municipalities of Kamenica and Dragash. Results should include a fully functional geographical information system, a training material package for municipal employees and pilot development projects, including poultry farming to generate income and kindergartens and day-care centres to allow women to pursue economic activities.

VIII. Democracy and civil society

A. Democratization

98. The Institute for Civil Administration organized a one-week seminar for 30 top-level municipal representatives (26 Kosovo Albanians and 4 Kosovo Serbs) from 29 municipalities at the School of Public Administration of Slovenia from 15 to 22 June. Topics covered the organization and working methods of local self-government, the rule of law and human rights as the legal foundation of civil administration, local government financing and conflict resolution in multinational and interreligious communities. Similar training has been provided to approximately 800 municipal representatives throughout Kosovo. This training also included computer skills, budget management and control, the role of the Ombudsperson and local project management. On 21 August a training programme commenced for 60 senior municipal staff from all over Kosovo with the theme "Preparing for change — local administration in transition".

99. The institution-building pillar has worked to promote and support the development of mature democratic political parties in Kosovo. Advice and assistance have been provided to 29 Kosovo Albanian parties and 2 coalitions, as well as to 2 Turkish parties, 2 Bosniac parties, 1 Ashkalija party and one Muslim Slav party, on requirements for registering as political parties. Similar assistance was given to Kosovo Serb political parties, although none subsequently applied for registration. All registered political parties are entitled to use the political party service centres, of which there were nine at the end of August. The aim of the centres is to provide political parties with training and logistical support. On 4 August approximately 200 candidates and campaign managers, from all parties certified for the elections, were trained on how to run a municipal election campaign. Eleven one-day courses were subsequently held throughout Kosovo.

100. In order to steer the political parties through the electoral process, regular meetings of the Political Party Consultative Forum have been held to inform political parties about decisions of the Central Election Commission and discuss election-related issues. UNMIK has also been facilitating meetings among potential women candidates to discuss strategies of cooperation across parties and to prepare a common gender agenda for all candidates. The Office of Gender Affairs has also helped to organize training and support for women candidates who plan to compete in the coming municipal elections.

101. In order to create a favourable environment for non-governmental organization (NGO) and civil society structures in Kosovo, several NGO resource centres have been opened in the province, including two centres in the Kosovo Serb areas of Strpce and Leposavic. Those centres provide information, technical equipment and assistance, as well as serving

as a meeting point for NGOs. At the request of the Executive Board of the NGO Assembly, the institution-building pillar also organized a strategic planning and effective board management workshop to strengthen the Executive Board's capacity to address priority needs of the NGO community.

B. Media affairs

102. UNMIK has taken measures to curb irresponsible behaviour by the local media. On 17 June, my Special Representative promulgated two regulations, one on the licensing and regulation of the broadcast media and another on the conduct of the print media (regulations 2000/36 and 2000/37 respectively). The regulations include a code of conduct and empower the temporary media commissioner to impose a range of sanctions against those who operate in violation of the applicable law or the code of conduct. The promulgation of those regulations provides the legal basis for both enforcement action against media outlets that tolerate irresponsible journalism and the provision of an appeal process for those who are so sanctioned.

103. The regulation governing print media was used against *Dita* following that daily's publication of the names of Kosovo Serbs it accused of war crimes. The temporary media commissioner imposed a fine of DM 25,000 on 20 July. Non-payment of the fine resulted in my Special Representative's authorizing the closure of the daily. After ceasing publication for one day, *Dita* recommenced printing again on 1 August, using the printing press of the newspaper *Koha Ditore*. The temporary media commissioner is reviewing the case. The temporary media commissioner has also sent out two warning letters to the newspaper *Rilindja* and to *Kosovarija*, a women's magazine, both of which published the names of alleged war criminals. Both publications stated that they would desist from publishing similar material in future, and no further action was taken.

IX. Civil registration and municipal election preparations

A. Civil registration

104. As indicated in paragraph 2 above, the first phase of the civil registration process has ended. Inside Kosovo, more than 1 million applications were received. Of those, some 100,000 were presented without sufficient documentation and were therefore subject to review, which will be completed by 30 September. Of the review cases processed to date, 29 per cent have been substantiated, bringing the total number of names placed on the civil registry to well over 930,000. In addition, 181,642 applications have been received from outside Kosovo, of which 31,619 have been approved to date.

105. The applications gathered and approved as part of the civil registration process are being used to produce a provisional voters' list, which formed the basis for the confirmations, appeals and challenges period between 21 and 30 August. The confirmations, appeals and challenges period allowed voters the chance to check the voters' list for accuracy. A total of 445 (75 fixed and 370 mobile) confirmation centres were set up throughout the province to facilitate this inspection process. A public information campaign was carried out with the broadcast of two public service announcements, and 3,000 posters and 10,000 flyers were distributed. As a result, approximately 200,000 people visited the confirmation centres.

106. Applicants who have been denied inclusion on the civil and/or voter registries will receive a notification of denial, at which time they will be able to file an appeal. A Registration Appeals Commission has been established to adjudicate all civil registration appeals. The Election Complaints and Appeals Subcommission is responsible for adjudicating all appeals of denial based solely on voter registration status, as well as all appeals from applicants from outside Kosovo.

B. Municipal election preparations

107. Electoral preparations are well under way. My Special Representative has signed two UNMIK regulations that collectively establish the legal foundations of the municipal elections. The first of these, the regulation on municipal elections (regulation 2000/39 of 8 July 2000), establishes that a proportional representation system with open lists will be used. The vast majority of Kosovo's political parties supported the adoption of this system. The one main exception was PDK, which called for a majority system. The regulation on municipal elections stipulates that the first term of office will be for a period of two years. It

also requires parties to submit candidate lists on which at least 30 per cent of the first 15 candidates are women. The second regulation (regulation 2000/43 of 27 July) determines the names and boundaries of Kosovo's 30 municipalities, including the recognition of both Malisevo and Zvecan.

108. The Central Election Commission, the principal regulatory body overseeing the conduct and supervision of the election process, is continuing its work on schedule. As a result, the regulatory framework for the elections is now in place. As part of this effort, the Commission has adopted 14 central electoral rules to govern key elements of the election process, including the registration of candidates, public scrutiny of voter lists, media coverage of election campaigns and campaign finance. Procedures designed to prevent voter fraud and to assure the secrecy of balloting and security at the voting centres have already been adopted. The Commission has also certified a total of 19 political parties, 2 coalitions, 3 citizens' initiatives and 15 independent candidates to run in the elections. Those certified political entities will compete in as few as one and as many as 29 municipalities. They have also been required to submit their lists of candidates for each municipality in which they intend to compete; 240 out of a possible 252 candidate lists have been received.

109. On 18 August the Commission began its review of the lists. Out of a total of 5,500 candidates, 7 cases of double candidacy were found, as well as 6 cases of under-age candidates and many cases of incomplete data. In the latter, political parties have been given a chance to make corrections. To date, the Commission has rejected 2 candidates for being members of KPS, 13 for being members of KPC, 13 for submitting incomplete civil registration information, 19 for not being registered and 224 for being registered in a municipality other than that for which they had applied to stand for election. Finally, 42 candidate lists did not comply with the requirement that 30 per cent of the first 15 candidates on a list be women. In accordance with electoral rule 2000/9, those certified political parties, coalitions and citizens' initiatives were given until 28 August to comply.

X. Financial situation

A. Kosovo consolidated budget

110. The Kosovo consolidated budget covers mainly the annual operating costs of the JIAS departments. Capital expenditure to restore the infrastructure of Kosovo remains overwhelmingly funded by donor finance. Details on revenue to date against budget forecasts are contained in the fiscal monitoring report in annex III. Those figures are current to the end of August 2000.

111. The Kosovo consolidated budget was reviewed in June and July 2000, and a revised budget was approved in August. Modifications to the budget were required to reallocate resources between departments and budget types to accommodate emerging budgetary needs but still preserve the level of aggregate expenditure. There was also a need to provide budget authority for two JIAS departments to operate and to reallocate funds for goods and services.

112. It is expected that the Kosovo consolidated budget will be fully expended in the wage and salary component, with some potential for the larger departments to overspend owing to higher than expected staffing levels throughout the year. Goods and services expenditure is currently running below what would be expected for this time of the year. Subsidies to public utilities will be higher than forecast in the original budget for 2000 because of slower than expected growth in fee collections and higher than expected staffing levels.

B. United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo Trust Fund

113. As at 30 August contributions received under the UNMIK Trust Fund totalled $35,369,737. The approved value of quick-impact projects to be paid from the UNMIK Trust Fund as at August 2000 totals some $4,011,895. Payments totalling $1,989,492 have been made; a balance payable of some $1,192,572 remains, and savings of $274,732 were achieved from completed projects. A total of 22 approved projects (with a value of $555,099) were transferred to the Central Fiscal Authority for payment under the Kosovo consolidated budget. Currently 148 quick-impact projects are being implemented and 48 (with a value of

$1,177,587) have been closed. A total of some $14,457,713 was withdrawn from the Trust Fund for the payment of stipends to Kosovo civil servants, and $10 million was withdrawn for the winterization programme.

XI. Observations

114. UNMIK is committed to the development of democracy in Kosovo. To that end, the timely completion of the initial phase of the civil registration process marked an important milestone on the province's path to self-governance. While a major accomplishment, the civil registration is only the first step. Over the next two months, UNMIK will continue its preparations for holding free and fair municipal elections. During this period, the international community must remain focused on the political process in Kosovo. But the real key to success on 28 October lies with the people of Kosovo. I join my Special Representative in calling upon all registered voters to take part in the election process. Their continued support in the coming weeks and participation on the day of the vote itself is a crucial element in Kosovo's transition to authentic autonomy and self-governance.

115. I note with concern, however, the recent incidence of political violence, which, if unchecked, could narrow the opportunity for mass participation in the election process. Indeed, the province's transition to self-governance could be in danger of being derailed by hard-line, principally Kosovo Albanian, elements who seek to use violence to undermine confidence in the democratic process. Such acts will not be tolerated. UNMIK intends to use all its resources, with the assistance of KFOR, to create an environment in which the people of Kosovo can vote freely and without fear. Nevertheless, the final responsibility for deterring political violence rests squarely on the shoulders of local leaders. Kosovo has come a long way since the 1999 conflict. A resurgence of violence risks jeopardizing international support and crippling Kosovo's economic and political development. I support my Special Representative's call upon Kosovo's leaders to condemn acts of political violence and to commit themselves to respecting the results of the upcoming elections.

116. Although minority community participation in the civil registration process did not meet the Mission's expectations, significant progress has nonetheless been made in enhancing the level of engagement between UNMIK and non-Albanian ethnic communities. To begin with, UNMIK was able to facilitate the return of the Serb National Council of Gracanica to JIAS and has made significant progress in implementing the various elements of the Understanding reached with SNC Gracanica. In addition, SNC Mitrovica has begun to actively participate in the work of the UNMIK Joint Committee on Returns. With respect to non-Kosovo Serb minority communities, my Special Representative has launched an initiative to identify and address the needs of those ethnic groups. UNMIK police have set up a special task force and, in conjunction with KFOR, have taken a series of steps to improve physical security for minority communities. With respect to the Kosovo Turkish community, UNMIK will continue to develop and implement the framework discussed with a broad spectrum of the Turkish community in the province and with the Turkish authorities.

117. Local community offices are being established to facilitate timely and efficient access to municipal services. Provision of adequate health-care services to the minorities does, however, remain a matter of concern. Despite concerted efforts by UNMIK to address this problem, the situation varies from region to region, and secondary care is inadequate for those isolated minorities whose freedom of movement is limited. There is continuing concern about the capacity to deal with the large number of returnees from abroad, which could overburden the fragile social services still being established in Kosovo.

118. The deployment of international judges and prosecutors to district courts across Kosovo has helped to bolster confidence in the judicial system when ethnically linked crimes are being tried. The international judges and prosecutors are increasingly accepted by both the local judiciary and the public, and their participation has injected a degree of independence into court proceedings. The initiative has been particularly successful in giving the Kosovo Serb minority greater confidence in the judicial system. There is, however, still an urgent need to identify and appoint additional international judges and prosecutors to ensure an adequate international presence in all of Kosovo's courts.

119. UNMIK remains deeply concerned at the violence against non-Albanian ethnic groups. Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Roma, in particular, continue to be

the target of attacks and intimidation. I am especially outraged by recent incidents in which children and elderly people from those communities have become the victims of violence. Members of IAC and KTC have publicly condemned those attacks on more than one occasion. At the Airlie conference (see para. 6 above), Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb leaders came together and committed themselves to promoting tolerance, deterring ethnic violence and facilitating physical integration for all ethnic communities. While such public condemnation and commitment is welcome, I urge all parties to take concrete measures to ensure that all Kosovo residents can enjoy an environment free of violence, intimidation and harassment. Implementation of the Airlie Declaration would constitute an important step in this process.

120. UNMIK welcomes recent signs that members of Kosovo's minority communities are beginning to return to the province. The Mission will continue to encourage such returns and, indeed the return of all refugees and displaced persons. The rate of those returns will continue to be governed by the principles of voluntariness, sustainability and security. In this light, UNMIK is concerned about the situation of Kosovo Serb internally displaced persons currently located in Serbia, many of whom appear to be extremely worried about their current living conditions, particularly with the approach of winter. Unless the situation of internally displaced persons improves, these factors could lead to their return, without adequate preparation, to a situation of displacement and insecurity within Kosovo. At the same time, it is critical that the international community provide assistance to minority communities to prepare for winter in an effort to discourage outflows of those who are considering departing before the start of inclement weather.

121. The Trepca industrial complex, which has facilities throughout Kosovo, plays a key role in the Mission's strategy to develop the province's economy. UNMIK views the rehabilitation of Trepca as a critical step in reviving growth, reducing unemployment and enhancing social cohesion. The decision to assume responsibility for the Zvecan lead smelter marked a major step forward in the Mission's comprehensive strategy to ensure the revival of this vital economic asset. In the coming months, the Mission's Trepca administrators will carry out feasibility studies on restarting the smelter and undertake a clean-up of the plant and the surrounding environment using the current workforce. Also, efforts are being made to prevent a further release of sulphuric acid into the Ibar River from a Trepca battery plant, as happened recently. Those steps should help to facilitate the progressive return of Trepca's employees, regardless of ethnicity, to their places of work. UNMIK is committed to securing employment for all of Kosovo's residents as part of its efforts to build a multi-ethnic and peaceful society.

122. UNMIK continues to be concerned over the situation in the north of Kosovo and, in particular, in the city of Mitrovica. Recent episodes of organized unrest in the northern part of the city have highlighted the relative ease with which committed troublemakers can create tension in the area. UNMIK and KFOR have continued to work together to develop more effective joint security operations and improve the security environment in Mitrovica. Fundamental improvement on the Mitrovica issue will, however, require sustained effort to seize the initiative away from hard-line elements and create conditions for a long-term peace process. Together with KFOR, UNMIK is revising plans for the entire northern part of Kosovo and is developing a comprehensive strategy to reinforce the influence of the international community throughout the area. This will serve as a prelude to the creation of conditions that would allow the Mission to effectively and fully exert its authority over the city of Mitrovica. The success of UNMIK in assuming control over the Zvecan lead smelter and subsequently cultivating a basic level of confidence with the facility's Kosovo Serb workforce should provide the Mission with considerable leverage in gradually securing the support of the population in the northern part of the province, including Mitrovica.

123. Since June, extensive efforts to further the development of the Kosovo Protection Corps as a capable civil emergency unit have continued. Specialized training courses are being offered to a number of KPC members, and the organization itself continues to make a major contribution to the reconstruction of Kosovo. Unfortunately, KPC is facing some critical equipment shortages that limit specialized training. Ongoing efforts to instil a high level of discipline within the ranks of KPC have resulted in a diminished number of allegations against members of the organization. Currently, the possibility of placing KFOR liaison teams within KPC regional headquarters

to provide closer oversight, supervision and improved cooperation is under consideration. Despite these efforts and successes, securing funds for KPC has not been easy. However, following NATO Secretary-General Robertson's appeal to member States for financial support for KPC, a few member States pledged contributions, and the organization now has sufficient funds to remain operational through October. It is essential for Member States to help to put KPC on a sound financial footing and provide it with sufficient funds to enable it to plan its activities with a greater degree of certainty.

124. Today the macroeconomic fundamentals are largely in place in Kosovo. The Central Fiscal Authority, increasingly staffed by local employees, is functioning according to international standards and is effectively managing the Kosovo consolidated budget. In addition, consolidated budget revenue has been significantly boosted through expansion of the tax base, the establishment of new taxes and improvements in tax and customs collection. However, the budget remains reliant on donor contributions, and a balance must be maintained between the capacity for collecting revenue and the great demands on public spending. Those demands derive from a combination of the special requirements of the post-conflict situation and the need to build an efficient public service infrastructure. In the face of anticipated revenue shortfalls and the pressure of requirements not forecast earlier in the year, UNMIK has decided to reallocate within the budget to the maximum extent possible. Donors will be approached, if necessary, to increase their contributions to meet shortfalls in local revenue collections.

125. In conclusion, I would like to commend my Special Representative, Bernard Kouchner, as well as all the international and local staff of UNMIK, for their continued dedication to and support for United Nations activities in Kosovo.

Annex I

Composition and strength of the military element of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (as at 1 September 2000)

Nationality	*Number of military liaison officers*
Argentina	1
Austria	2
Bangladesh	1
Belgium	1
Bolivia	1
Bulgaria	1
Canada	1
Chile	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	1
Finland	2
Hungary	1
Ireland	3[a]
Italy	1
Jordan	1
Kenya	1
Malawi	1
Malaysia	1
Nepal	1
New Zealand	1
Norway	1
Pakistan	1
Poland	1
Romania	1
Russian Federation	2
Spain	2[b]
Switzerland	1
Ukraine	1
United States of America	3
Zambia	1
Total	**38**

[a] Including two non-commissioned officers.
[b] Including the Chief Military Liaison Officer.

Annex II

Composition and strength of the police component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (as at 1 September 2000)

Nationality	*Civilian police*	*Special Police Unit*
Argentina	33	
Austria	70	
Bangladesh	104	
Belgium	5	
Benin	5	
Bulgaria	80	
Canada	82	
Czech Republic	6	
Denmark	31	
Dominican Republic	15	
Egypt	69	
Estonia	4	
Fiji	26	
Finland	20	
France	71	
Gambia	5	
Germany	315	
Ghana	99	
Greece	18	
Hungary	9	
Iceland	2	
India	296	240
Italy	55	
Jordan	207	241
Kenya	19	
Kyrgyzstan	5	
Lithuania	9	
Malaysia	47	
Nepal	54	
Netherlands	0	
Niger	5	
Nigeria	144	
Norway	27	
Pakistan	126	113
Philippines	60	

Nationality	*Civilian police*	*Special Police Unit*
Poland	9	
Portugal	21	
Romania	70	
Russian Federation	106	
Senegal	15	
Spain	19	112
Sweden	50	
Tunisia	10	
Turkey	118	
Ukraine	30	8
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	114	
United States of America	489	
Zambia	55	
Zimbabwe	51	
Total	**3 280**	714
Grand total		**3 994**

Annex III

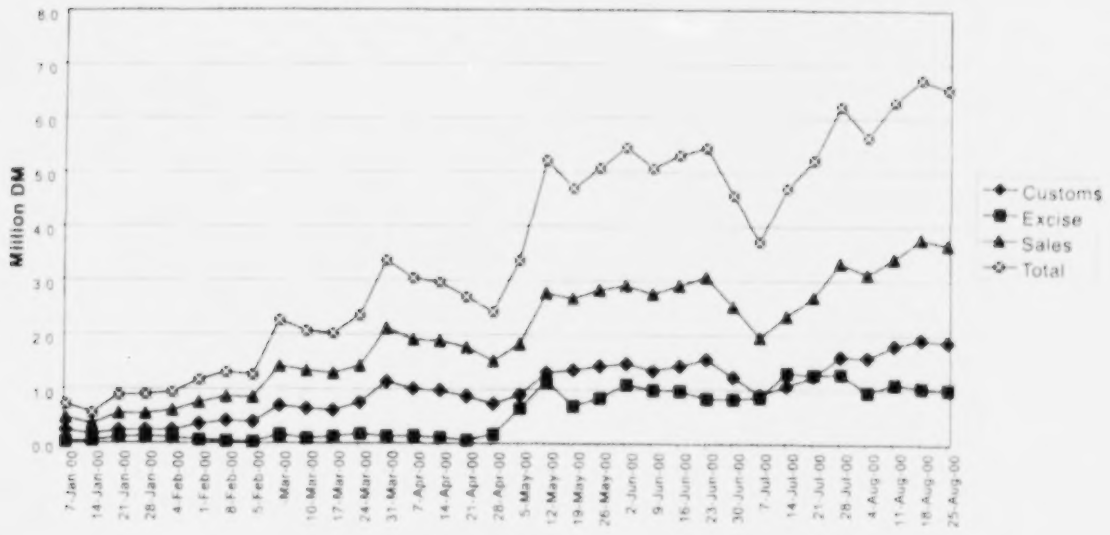
Kosovo consolidated budget, 2000

(Millions of deutsche marks)

Expected versus actual revenues

Domestic revenue	*(1) Estimated (31 August 2000)*	*(2) Plan*	*(3) Actual*	*(4) Balance to collect (1-3)*
Taxes	201 600 000	121 221 660	122 942 549	78 657 452
Customs (including offences)	51 800 000	32 316 139	34 974 052	16 825 948
Excise	39 700 000	21 232 411	18 467 327	21 232 673
Sales tax on imports	104 400 000	65 227 178	67 982 900	36 417 101
Hotel, food and beverage	2 700 000	1 522 856	1 518 270	1 181 730
Payroll	-	-	-	-
Presumptive	3 000 000	923 077	-	3 000 000
Profit	-	-	-	-
Fees	11 000 000	2 824 868	3 307 049	7 692 951
Radio licensing	-	-	-	-
Vehicle registration	5 000 000	2 824 868	3 307 049	1 692 951
Travel documents	6 000 000	-	-	6 000 000
User charges	700 000	466 667	-	700 000
Reserve for estimation/collection adjustment	(2 467 114)	-	-	-
Total domestic revenue	**210 832 886**	**124 513 195**	**126 249 598**	**87 050 403**

Weekly revenues by type of tax
(as at 26 August 2000)



Budgetary assistance donor grants
(as at 31 August 2000)

Funded by		(1) Budgeted	(2) Budget adjusted for unbudgeted designated donor grants	(3) Pledged	(4) Received	(5) Balance to be received (3-4)
a. Designated donor grants						
Kosovo Protection Corps		20 700 000	20 700 000	20 700 000	12 874 171	7 825 829
	United States	-	-	13 985 000	9 685 000	4 300 000
	Germany	-	-	3 089 963	3 089 963	-
	Poland	-	-	99 208	99 208	-
Balance yet to be pledged		-	-	3 525 829	-	3 525 829
Other		2 796 884	58 438 943	58 172 980	18 756 705	39 416 275
District heating	Canada	1 296 913	1 296 913	1 296 913	1 296 913	-
Electricity import costs	European Commission	-	39 200 000	39 200 000	-	39 200 000
Water repair	European Commission	-	234 699	234 699	234 699	-
Bulldozers	Netherlands	-	5 379 404	5 379 404	5 379 404	-
Pristina hospital	Italy	-	375 000	375 000	375 000	-
Undetermined	Sweden	-	60 000	60 000	60 000	-
Building refurbishments	European Commission	-	45 600	45 600	45 600	-
Heating repairs	European Commission	-	141 054	141 054	141 054	-
Mitrovica music school	Germany	-	50 000	50 000	50 000	-
Mitrovica winterization	European Commission	-	124 900	124 900	124 900	-
Fuel purchase extension	European Commission	-	1 820	1 820	1 820	-
Trepca mine	Italy	1 499 971	1 499 971	1 499 971	1 499 971	-
Water company	European Commission	-	35 205	35 205	35 205	-
Mitrovica courthouse	United Kingdom	-	204 470	204 470	204 470	-
Victim identification/ recovery	International Committee for Missing Persons	-	306 853	306 853	306 853	-
Pristina University hospital	United Kingdom	-	8 130 300	8 130 300	8 130 300	-
Railways	United States Agency for International Development	-	216 275	216 275	-	216 275
Social welfare	Switzerland	-	239 971	239 971	239 971	-
Social welfare	Switzerland	-	630 545	630 545	630 545	-
Water clean-up	European Union	-	265 964	265 964	265 964	-
Total designated donor assistance		**23 496 884**	**79 138 943**	**78 872 980**	**31 630 876**	**47 242 104**

Funded by	*(1) Budgeted*	*(2) Budget adjusted for unbudgeted designated donor grants*	*(3) Pledged*	*(4) Received*	*(5) Balance to be received (3-4)*
b. Undesignated donor grants					
Balance forward from 1999 surplus	-	-	29 632 685	29 632 685	-
European Commission	-	-	68 454 050	68 454 050	-
United States	-	-	20 217 380	20 217 380	-
European Commission	-	-	19 600 000	19 600 000	-
United Kingdom	-	-	15 932 000	15 932 000	-
Japan	-	-	14 790 822	14 790 822	-
World Bank	-	-	10 120 200	10 120 200	-
United States	-	-	7 721 680	3 959 180	3 762 500
Canada	-	-	4 140 722	4 140 722	-
France	-	-	3 482 538	3 482 538	-
Canada	-	-	7 091 057	2 719 202	4 371 855
Italy	-	-	2 020 164	2 020 164	-
Luxembourg	-	-	1 018 159	1 018 159	-
Spain	-	-	791 713	791 713	-
Amount over-pledged	-	-	(8 558 092)	-	(8 558 092)
Total undesignated budget support	**196 455 078**	**196 455 078**	**196 455 078**	**196 878 815**	**(423 737)**
Total (a + b)	**219 951 962**	**275 594 021**	**275 328 058**	**228 509 690**	**46 818 367**
Total revenue	**430 784 848**	**486 426 907**	**399 841 253**	**364 759 288**	**133 868 770**

UNMIK
District Centres
YUGOSLAVIA
Serbia
Montenegro
Rozaj
Tropoji
WEST
PRISTINA
Priština
Province of Kosovo
EAST
SOUTH
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
Skopje
ALBANIA

United Nations S/2000/879

Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 15 of Security Council resolution 1298 (2000) of 17 May 2000, in which the Council requested me, inter alia, to submit, every 60 days after the date of the adoption of the resolution, a report on its implementation and on the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

2. The present report provides an update on political and humanitarian developments since my report of 9 August 2000 (S/2000/785). It also describes the status of the deployment of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), as authorized by the Security Council in resolution 1312 (2000) of 31 July 2000.

II. Political developments

3. According to the communiqué issued on 12 June 2000 by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (S/2000/560), the proximity talks between Ethiopia and Eritrea that resumed in Algiers on 30 May 2000, and subsequently led to the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between the two countries on 18 June 2000, had been intended to resolve the practical aspects of the implementation of the peace plan. The plan was to begin with the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces from positions taken by them since 6 February 1999 and end with the settlement of the border dispute through delimitation and demarcation and, if necessary, through arbitration. However, at Ethiopia's request and with Eritrea's consent, it had been agreed to first finalize a cessation of hostilities agreement and then negotiate and finalize a second agreement on the other outstanding issues.

4. In accordance with the decision taken by OAU at its recent summit in Lomé, the President of Algeria, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, is assessing the best timing for the resumption of the proximity talks under the auspices of OAU, with due consideration to progress in the deployment of UNMEE.

5. The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1298 (2000) to monitor the implementation of the measures imposed against Ethiopia and Eritrea in paragraph 6 of the resolution agreed to elect Ambassador Hasmy Agam (Malaysia) as Chairman and Argentina and Tunisia as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee until 31 December 2000. Currently, the Committee is in the process of finalizing the guidelines for the conduct of its work. In paragraph 11 of resolution 1298 (2000), States were requested to report in detail to the Secretary-General within 30 days of its adoption on the specific steps they had taken to give effect to the measures imposed against Ethiopia and Eritrea. As at 15 September 2000, 36 States had submitted their reports, which had been issued as documents of the Committee.

III. Humanitarian developments

Ethiopia

6. In January 2000, the Government of Ethiopia and the United Nations country team estimated that 349,837 people had been displaced as a result of the conflict in the northern regions of Tigray and Afar. While most of those internally displaced persons were accommodated in host communities, local basic infrastructure was insufficient to support their

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presence. Since the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, the situation has changed significantly for those persons, and many of them have had the opportunity to return to their places of origin. According to the Government of Ethiopia, approximately 30 per cent of them have started rebuilding their lives in their hometowns since last August.

7. The returning internally displaced persons need assistance in practically all sectors, as most of them lost their possessions in the conflict. Their return is a cause for major concern because a number of areas of return are located in former war zones and are, in many cases, heavily mined. The presence of mines also negatively affects the implementation of development assistance programmes.

8. The complex emergency situation in Ethiopia is further exacerbated by the drought, which has left over 10 million people in need of emergency food assistance, including over 1.4 million children under 5 years of age. While the situation in the Somali region continues to be a source of concern, the overall donor response for both food and non-food needs has helped to prevent the crisis from degenerating into a famine. However, people are still dying of drought-related illnesses, and it is therefore imperative to deliver non-food items such as medicine, water and sanitation.

9. In support of the Government's appeal released in January 2000, the United Nations country team in Ethiopia issued a relief action plan for internally displaced persons requesting $27.5 million in combined food and non-food assistance. As of June 2000, donor response to this request amounted to $19.7 million. Eighty per cent of the food requirements were met, but only 22 per cent of the non-food items were funded. The non-food activities include construction and rehabilitation of water points, emergency education assistance, provision of medical supplies, distribution of shelter materials and mine risk education.

Eritrea

10. Since the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities on 18 June 2000, a number of important changes have occurred in the humanitarian situation in Eritrea. With the improvement of security conditions, the past three months have witnessed the return of some 400,000 internally displaced persons to their areas of origin located in accessible and relatively safe parts of the administrative zones bordering Ethiopia. Furthermore, the repatriation of Eritrean refugees from the Sudan, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Governments of Eritrea and the Sudan, has continued on a weekly basis. Of 94,000 refugees, a total of 23,881 have returned under this repatriation operation, while an estimated 25,000 have returned spontaneously.

11. While the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin constitutes a positive development, many of the returnees will continue to need humanitarian assistance. Food aid on an ongoing basis will be required since much of the planting season has been missed and normal economic activities in war-affected areas have been severely disrupted. Furthermore, shelter materials and household items are needed in view of the destruction of homes and household assets in certain areas. There is also a need to re-establish basic infrastructure and social services in these areas of return. It is equally essential to support income-generating and productive capacities through the provision of agricultural implements to farmers and of microcredit to small entrepreneurs.

12. At present, there are still over 200,000 internally displaced persons accommodated in camps and other settlements in the northern Red Sea, Gash Barka and Debub zones. These persons cannot currently return to their original homes because of security concerns or the lack of resources to re-establish their lives. As long as they remain in camps, they will continue to require a wide array of vital humanitarian services, including the delivery of emergency food assistance, health, shelter and household items, and water and sanitation.

13. In addition, a substantial number of internally displaced persons continue to be accommodated in host communities. The plight of these persons and their host families, who have been sharing their meagre resources with an additional number of people for the past few months, requires continued attention from the humanitarian community. The situation is further exacerbated by the fact that the most fertile agricultural areas have been affected by both war and drought.

14. Over the past few months, an increasing number of humanitarian agencies have arrived in Eritrea to assist the Government in providing emergency relief assistance to populations in need. On 10 June 2000, the

Government of Eritrea issued a new appeal for $183 million for emergency humanitarian assistance to some 1.6 million people affected by the war and drought, as well as to the urban poor and affected host communities. The appeal is to cover the period until the end of the year. In response to the Government appeal, the United Nations country team in Eritrea issued a revised United Nations appeal last July. The appeal has a total value of $87.3 million and addresses the priority humanitarian needs among over 1 million war-affected Eritreans. The donor response to the food aid component of the revised United Nations country team appeal has been very positive so far. Regrettably, the donor pledges and contributions have been less than expected for other critical interventions in sectors such as health, nutrition, water and sanitation, social services and agriculture.

IV. Status of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

15. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1312 (2000) establishing the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, active preparations have continued for the deployment of both the first group of 100 military observers and the necessary civilian support staff to Ethiopia and Eritrea.

16. The United Nations military liaison officers, who were dispatched to Addis Ababa and Asmara (five in each capital) at the outset of the Mission, have undertaken, in close cooperation with the parties, field visits to military positions of Ethiopia and Eritrea, and established contacts with key civilian and military authorities.

17. Accompanied by the Mission logistics team, United Nations liaison officers have also completed a survey of potential deployment areas in both countries. As a result, locations for liaison functions with Ethiopian and Eritrean military headquarters at the front positions have been identified and a deployment timetable for military observers has been prepared. According to the timetable, a total of 46 military observers (23 at Addis Ababa and 23 at Asmara) will assemble for comprehensive four-day training sessions, to be followed by deployment to operational positions in both countries later this month. The induction of the military personnel began on 13 September. The second group of military observers are to be dispatched to the Mission area around mid-October 2000.

18. In anticipation of the adoption by the Security Council on 15 September 2000 of resolution 1320 (2000), authorizing the deployment of phase III of the Mission, the draft status-of-forces agreements to be concluded between the United Nations and Ethiopia and Eritrea, respectively, were transmitted to the two Governments.

Logistics

19. In the meantime, logistical build-up for the new mission has also continued, with the arrival of supplies and equipment from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. The opening of direct air and road corridors between the two countries for the use of United Nations flights and convoys will be of critical importance to Mission operations, and the United Nations is actively pursuing this issue. The Organization has also started dispatching the necessary civilian support staff, as envisaged in Security Council resolution 1312 (2000). To date, a total of 37 civilian support personnel have arrived in the Mission area. As a result of these efforts, UNMEE has already established functioning offices at Addis Ababa and Asmara.

20. Both parties have extended their cooperation in this regard. The United Nations Liaison Office to OAU and the representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have also played an invaluable role in setting up the new mission. At the same time, the United Nations has continued to maintain close contact with OAU, in particular regarding issues related to logistical support for the military liaison officers to be designated by OAU.

Mine action

21. Pursuant to the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities and Security Council resolution 1312 (2000), the United Nations is launching a multi-component mine action programme to assist the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea. To this end, a Mine Action Coordination Office is being established within the UNMEE structure. The purpose of the Office is to record and process information related to mines and unexploded ordnance, set priorities for mine action, assign tasks to operators, and supervise their activities. To accurately ascertain the extent of the

landmine problem, a rapid landmine/unexploded ordnance survey will be conducted by a United Kingdom non-governmental organization, the Halo Trust, and coordinated by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Survey teams from the Halo Trust have already arrived in the Mission area and will start assessing relevant areas, with the aim of completing the survey by mid-December 2000. In the meantime, mine awareness for the returning population is provided by the United Nations Children's Fund and UNHCR.

22. The overall requirements for mine clearance in the temporary security zone will be determined on the basis of the survey described above. Both the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities and Security Council resolution 1312 (2000) envisage a crucial role for the parties' armed forces in mine clearance. This requires that the two countries proceed with mine lifting as soon as possible and carry out this exercise in a coordinated manner, and comply with international standards for humanitarian mine clearance. Any postponement in mine clearance would affect the deployment of United Nations military observers and troops and the early establishment of the temporary security zone.

23. Local capacity-building through training and assistance provided by the international community will be required to reach the objectives set out above. The overreaching aim of the United Nations is to assist the parties in accomplishing these important goals, in line with its policy on mine action, which confers on UNDP the leading role in assisting Member States in national mine action capacity-building. These efforts will be funded by voluntary contributions; and I appeal to the donor community to strongly support this vital area of United Nations activities.

V. Observations

24. To date, the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea have shown commitment to ensuring the implementation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities signed at Algiers on 18 June 2000 and I should like to commend them for that.

25. Since the establishment of UNMEE pursuant to Security Council resolution 1312 (2000), the United Nations has pursued every effort to expedite the deployment of the first group of military observers and the necessary civilian support staff to Ethiopia and Eritrea, in anticipation of the peacekeeping operation authorized by the Council in its resolution 1320 (2000). Pursuant to that resolution, I intend to nominate a Special Representative and a Force Commander in the very near future.

26. The cooperation extended to the United Nations by both Governments has facilitated the establishment of the UNMEE offices, as well as the conduct of field surveys and other preparations for the Mission's deployment. I count on the parties to continue to cooperate closely with the Mission in the implementation of its mandate, in particular in the expeditious establishment of the temporary security zone, and the earliest possible start of mine-clearance, which is essential for UNMEE to commence its work in the relevant zones. I also call on all Member States which have the capacity to do so to provide this important Mission with all the military personnel, equipment and other resources necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate.

27. While the security conditions in the contested zones have improved, the humanitarian situation remains a cause for major concern. The donor pledges and contributions for critical interventions in key sectors have fallen short of expectations thus far. I therefore urge the international donor community to respond generously to the United Nations country team requests for humanitarian assistance in the two countries. I count on both Governments to continue to exercise every restraint in order to prevent any further deterioration of the humanitarian and human rights situation.

28. I am concerned by the continuing mutual accusations of human rights abuses by the two countries even after the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities. In this regard, I have written to the President of Eritrea, Isaias Afwerki, and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, and indicated that I had asked the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide me with recommendations on how the United Nations might be of assistance in addressing pressing human rights issues. After discussing this matter with both parties, I intend to establish a small component within UNMEE to follow human rights issues. I also called on both leaders to exercise restraint in sustaining the momentum for peace created by the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities.

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 114 (b)
Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, a letter relative to the establishment of the "United States Bureau for Yugoslavia" in Budapest, which I have addressed to the President of the Security Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114 (b), "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms" and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission
of Yugoslavia to the United Nations

00-64901 (E) 200900

Annex to the letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 15 August 2000 a "United States Bureau for Yugoslavia", headed by an Ambassador, began work in Budapest. The "Bureau" employs some 30 people of various professional profiles: members of the CIA, the National Security Council, the Pentagon, the United States Agency for International Development and other United States government agencies. According to United States officials, the "Bureau" is responsible for assisting the opposition in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its constituent Republic of Serbia, that is, in swinging the will of the people in the forthcoming elections. The officials said explicitly that that responsibility also included the establishment and funding of pro-United States and pro-NATO organizations in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, financing of opposition parties and the so-called independent media, management of United States intelligence agencies, direction of United States media reporting on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the coordination of United States operations in south-east Europe directed against its legitimate authorities and constitutional institutions.

The opening of the "United States Bureau for Yugoslavia" in Budapest is a glaring example of the pursuit of the policy of force and pressure and of gross interference in internal affairs of a sovereign country by the current United States administration. The "Bureau" is the nerve centre of a subversion and propaganda network that coordinates the activities of its outposts in Szeged, Timisoara, Sofia, Skopje, Tirana and Zagreb. It has been established for the purpose of continuing last year's unsuccessful aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, using subversion, espionage and other means, inadmissible in international relations. In doing so, it is grist to the mill of separatism and terrorism, aiding and abetting dangerous aspirations in the region in flagrant violation of the norms of international law.

The "Bureau" and its tasks are in direct contravention of the obligations of the United States under international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Vienna conventions on diplomatic and consular relations and the United Nations Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as well as other relevant international documents. The activities and goals of the "Bureau" constitute also a flagrant violation of General Assembly resolution 54/168 of 17 December 1999 regarding respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral process. In particular, they are contrary to paragraph 5 of the above resolution in which the General Assembly strongly appealed to all States to refrain from financing political parties or groups in other States and taking any other action that undermines their electoral processes.

The consent of the Government of Hungary to the opening of the "Bureau" and the use of Hungarian territory against a third country is unprecedented in international relations. Far from being in line with the principles of good-neighbourliness and respect for the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which Hungary purports to maintain, it is

reminiscent of some other times, long gone by, when Hungary, a pawn of extraneous factors and guided by different motivations, served as a centre of subversion and pressure against Yugoslavia.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia lodges the strongest protest at the illegal activities of the United States of America from the territory of the Republic of Hungary and the territories of other countries, aimed at overt interference in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, destabilization of the country and the violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects the Security Council to strongly condemn this behaviour and to call on the current United States administration to respect the Charter of the United Nations, United States international obligations and the norms of international law.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2000/881

Security Council

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Letter dated 13 September 2000 from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, Ghana, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe addressed to the President of the Security Council

Under Security Council resolution 1192 (1998), a solution was reached to the question of Lockerbie. This solution called for the trial of the two suspects before a Scottish Court sitting in the Netherlands, the suspension of the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya once the suspects had appeared before the Court and the lifting of those sanctions in accordance with paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 883 (1993) and paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 1192 (1998), upon the presentation of a report by the Secretary-General 90 days after the suspension of the sanctions.

Recalling the resolutions of the African summit conferences in Harare (1997), Ouagadougou (1998), Algiers (1999) and Lomé (2000), we would like to state that, 15 months after the deadline mentioned in paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 883 (1993) for the lifting of the sanctions; 18 months after the appearance of the two suspects before the Scottish Court in the Netherlands; and about 5 months following the start of the Court's proceedings, and despite the full cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with the Court (S/1999/1183), the Security Council has not been enabled to lift the sanctions.

The Organization of African Unity, which, together with the League of Arab States, is a principal party to the solution reached, deeply regrets the fact that the Security Council did not adopt a resolution lifting the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya immediately after the submission of the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, which indicated the implementation by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of all its commitments (see S/1999/726).

The Libyan people have the right to have strong suspicions and to be impatient, and would be justified in whatever position they decide to take. Likewise, the Organization of African Unity has every right to express its deep concern over this situation.

The five-member committee entrusted by the Organization of African Unity to follow up the question of Lockerbie pays great tribute to the cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with the Scottish Court in the Netherlands and calls on the Security Council to lift the sanctions immediately and irrevocably.

00-64950 (E) 190900

We would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Augustin Kontchou **Kouemegni**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon

(*Signed*) James Victor **Gbeho**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana

(*Signed*) Habib Ben **Yahia**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia

(*Signed*) Eriya **Kategaya**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda

(*Signed*) Dr. Stanislaus I. G. **Mudenge**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe

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Security Council

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Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1270 (1999) of 22 October 1999, 1289 (2000) of 7 February 2000, 1313 (2000) of 4 August 2000, 1317 (2000) of 5 September 2000 and all other relevant resolutions and the statements of its President concerning the situation in Sierra Leone,

1. *Decides* to extend the present mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone until 31 December 2000;

2. *Decides also* to review the situation no later than 31 October 2000;

3. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

00-65096 (E) 200900